

Jordanians elect new Parliament

Compiled by Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — Jordanians voted in their first general elections in 22 years Wednesday to the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament in what was widely described by the international media as the most free elections in the Arab World.

Voting began at 7 a.m. and most polling centres closed at 7 p.m. with the exception of a few which extended their deadline for 30 minutes to an hour. Officials said some 61.53 per cent of the 887,000 voters who had collected their voting cards had cast their ballots during the day, a national holiday characterised by a festive mood in most of Amman suburbs and outlying regions such as Zarqa and Irbid.

Reports said in many places women appeared to have outnumbered men voters. Observers attributed it to the disbanding of members of the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department (PSD) and all other security forces from taking part in the voting while their family members were allowed to.

Candidates and campaign supporters mingled with the throngs of hundreds of people in the streets, whispering candidates' names into the voters' ears or passing on candidates' cards in clandestine last-minute electioneering. By law, all campaigning was supposed to have been called at the stroke of midnight Tuesday.

Foreign journalists said they were impressed by the freedom that was enjoyed by the candidates, "whether in terms of nomination acceptance, expression of their platform, or public rallies."

"By all counts, this election appears to be by far the freest in

the Arab World," commented a European journalist who said he had been covering almost every election in Arab countries in the last 20 years. This view was shared by several news agencies.

Many Jordanian voters voiced the same sentiments, but in a different vein.

"I feel liberated, I feel elated that I am now able to contribute to my destiny," a female voter in the Third District told the Jordan Times after casting her ballot in Bint Uday School.

"What can I say other than I am happy and I feel my role as a woman in this Jordanian society has been enhanced by my ability to vote in these elections," another female voter in the same school said after confiding that she has voted for a woman.

Security men guarding the polling centres in the capital beamed with welcoming smiles to voters and journalists and expressed satisfaction with the cooperation they received from citizens.

"All security measures have been taken to ensure the proper and comfortable psychological atmosphere for voters as they exercise their holy right of citizenship," a police officer at one of the Second District's polling centres told the Jordan Times.

"All voters interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed their satisfaction with the treatment

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His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday watches a woman exercising her right to vote at a polling centre in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Sharif Zeid underlines importance of elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday cast a ballot paper for the first time in his life and underlined the importance of the general election to Jordan and its people.

"It is an extremely important period in the history of our country," said the prime minister, whose past career in the Armed Forces has constitutionally barred him from polling in previous elections.

"It is the first time our people have gone to the polls in such a free manner since 1967,"

said Sharif Zeid. "This will give us a very clear idea of the thinking of our people."

The prime minister expressed hope that the election process would go on smoothly to allow the results to be announced by noon Thursday.

Sharif Zeid said after casting his vote at a polling station set up at a school in Um Ushaina district in Amman:

"Let us hope that the day will pass without any incidents and that order and discipline which now prevail at all polling stations

will continue."

"We shall see the results by tomorrow noon... and I am very optimistic," the prime minister said. "We are sure our people will use this constitutional right in a very constructive manner."

In remarks carried by Reuters, Sharif Zeid said he would resign after the opening of the new 80-seat parliament, which should take place within a month of the election, but did not rule out his reappointment.

"His Majesty will decide who will be the next prime minister,"

he said with a smile, Reuters reported.

When asked who he had voted for, Sharif Zeid said he had voted for whoever he thought was "most capable of serving the nation."

Later, the prime minister who was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ibrahim Izzedine and Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, inspected the election process at the polling centre.

King: Beginning of a new era

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday joined the people of Jordan in voicing high hopes that the general elections to the Lower House of Parliament signalled the beginning of a new era in the history of the Kingdom with the new parliament which will assume its responsibility as the guardian of the legislative authority.

"This day is one of the most distinguished days in our lives," the King said. "It is the day when, after a long absence, the sons and daughters of Jordan are exercising their full right to participate in drawing a new picture for the future," the King told reporters during a visit he paid to the specially set up election press centre at the Plaza Hotel.

The King said the hall was now in the people's court, "and I hope that they will rise up to expectations and I am sure they will."

The King said the awareness of the people "was always appreciated by us and we thank God that our faith was in the right place."

His Majesty lamented his inability to participate in the elections by voting. "I have been deprived of this right by the constitution," he said. However, he said he felt "extremely proud and extremely happy."

The King described the elections as a "successful process in the full meaning of the word and Jordan will emerge as an example to others in this field."

very promising beginning of another and I certainly hope that this will be the case and this will be a sunny day in the future of this country," he said.

Asked whether he had any message for the candidates and voters, the King said: "I believe it was right for me not to have made any suggestions at this phase... I kept quiet, I watched and I made my views known, as a servant of Jordan, to Jordanians before the campaign started."

Earlier, the King visited the Ministry of Interior and was briefed on the status of the polling process on the various parts of the Kingdom.

The King also visited the polling centres at Sukaina Bint Al Hussein School in the Third District, and the School of Industry in Wadi Al Seer in the Fifth District.

His Majesty was accompanied by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh as well as the governor of Amman.

King visits PSD

King Hussein Wednesday also visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and conferred with PSD Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid, who presented a briefing on the election process and measures undertaken to facilitate it.

The King was accompanied by Sharif Zeid, Badran, Prince Ra'd and Masadeh.

Baker says U.S. rejected some Israeli demands on plan

HONOLULU (Agencies) — Israel demanded major changes to a U.S. peace plan for the Middle East but Secretary of State James Baker said he accepted only minor amendments.

Baker hinted Wednesday that he had rejected an Israeli request to limit the subjects to be discussed at any Israeli-Palestinian conference.

"The only changes that were made... were relatively modest," Baker, returning from an economic meeting in Australia, told reporters aboard his plane. "We were unable to agree with some of the changes that had been requested by the Israeli government before the meeting of their cabinet."

Israel's inner cabinet voted Sunday to accept Baker's five-point peace plan provided Washington gave assurances that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be kept out of the talks.

Baker said he would not give the Israelis any secret assurances, but he said Washington was still examining Israel's request for assurances on the PLO.

He could not confirm reports from Cairo that the PLO had asked for seven assurances of its own to protect its role in the process.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has accused the U.S. of retracting its plan and adopting the views of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly Al Munsawar of Wednesday, Arafat warned the U.S. not to help Israel stall for time in the belief this would crush the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"Because if the powder keg explodes no-one in the region will be immune to the explosion," he said.

Israeli officials say Baker has also amended this plan to give Israel the right to veto members of the Palestinian negotiating team.

"It is obvious the American administration is adopting the viewpoint of Shamir and not that of the Israeli government," Arafat said.

The PLO Executive Committee will meet Thursday in Tunis to make final decision on the U.S. plan, a PLO Executive Committee member said.

"We will meet tomorrow in Tunis to take the final decision in

the light of consultations with Egypt," Abdullah Hourani said Wednesday after talks in Cairo between PLO executive members and Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid.

Arafat, Hourani and other members of the group's top policy-making body met this month in Cairo for the first time in 12 years to formulate a response to the Baker plan.

"We discussed what is available in the form of initiatives and how to deal with the situation after the new elements presented in the Israeli response to Baker's plan... we will inform Egypt of our (final) decision," Hourani added.

Hourani denied charges by hardline Palestinians that Egypt was putting pressure on the PLO to accept U.S.-brokered peace talks with Israel.

"Egypt never pressures us and this is what is apparent by this president's words. Only the PLO has the right to take a decision and it will inform Egypt of it..." he added.

Palestinian activist Assad Safawi Wednesday said Israeli officials had granted him permission to visit Egypt for consultations on the make-up of a

ready to discuss a new dimension in our economic aid," Kohl told parliament in Bonn. West Germany has several times offered East Berlin substantial new financial aid if wide-ranging reforms are embraced.

He said West Germany had a national duty to promote economic and political change and that there were fewer reasons than ever for the two countries to remain divided.

"The SED (East German Communist Party) must renounce its monopoly on power, allow independent parties and pledge to hold free elections," Kohl said in a state-of-the-nation address.

But he warned that economic help would be wasted unless East Germany adopted a market economy.

"With this condition, I am also

of 40-odd ministers stepped down.

"It is our national task to promote through economic and political change in East Germany," he said.

"We have less reason than ever to be resigned to the long-term division of Germany into two states," he said.

He said events in East Germany showed that the Berlin Wall and barbed wire fences could not divide Germany for ever.

But he reassured West Germany's allies that closer ties with East Germany would not detach it from the Western community.

"We are not wanderers between East and West," he said.

Exactly three weeks ago Krenz, a 52-year-old former security chief, replaced orthodox

Lebanese flags.

They said the airport, where Syrian and Lebanese security officials were on full alert, was decorated with Muawad's pictures and red-and-white

Lebanese flags.

Asked whether the elimination would be military or political, he added: "This will be decided by the government of national re-

conciliation."

"Syria will carry out all the demands of the government of national reconciliation to extend its sovereignty and strengthen the role of Lebanon's state institutions," Khaddam said.

Khaddam was asked whether helping the government extend sovereignty meant Syria would withdraw from some areas following reports it would reward Muawad by leaving parts of the north.

"The question of withdrawal of Syrian forces has no relation to the issue of sovereignty as it was defined in the charter of national reconciliation," he said.

Aoun rejects an Arab peace plan also ratified Sunday for failing to ensure a withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops from Lebanon.



James Baker

Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

Israel meanwhile said it expected the Palestinian team to be selected in Washington by the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the United States and again ruled out any role for the PLO.

Safawi, a Gaza school principal, said he was invited to Cairo to meet Foreign Minister Abdul Meguid and Osama Al Baz, a political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak. He said he could leave for Egypt as early Wednesday.

"I was invited by the Egyptian embassy in Tel Aviv. I am going

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13-year-old shot dead in Qalqilya

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops have shot and killed a 13-year-old Palestinian during a violent protest demonstration in the West Bank, and a police commander recommended dismissal of six policemen involved in the fatal shooting of another youth.

The army announced Tuesday that it had broken up a ring of Muslim fundamentalists in the Gaza Strip who are believed to have kidnapped and killed two Israeli soldiers.

In other violence, a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities was found stabbed to death in the West Bank town of Nahliis, and another Arab died in apparent infighting between rival groups in the West Bank.

The deaths raised to at least 612 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip nearly 23 months ago.

The 13-year-old boy was fatally shot by a rubber bullet after paramilitary border police opened fire in the West Bank town of Qalqilya, the army said.

Residents identified him as Mowayya Haj Hassan, and said that at least three other Palestinians were wounded in the incident.

Witnesses said that the trouble began after hundreds of Qalqilya residents, many of them school children, tried to march to the home of a Palestinian shot and killed by soldiers a day earlier while trying to escape across the River Jordan.

The army said that 10 Qalqilya youths were arrested and that some of them wore masks.

Police spokesman Uzi Sandori said the recommendations for firing the six officers were given to police commissioner David Kraus, who was reviewing them. Their commander also has recommended a criminal investigation into their actions, Israel Radio said. The radio said pre-

liminary findings indicated the policemen allegedly fabricated evidence and gave false testimony.

The inquiry was launched after Israeli newspapers quoted Arab witnesses as saying 18-year-old Karim Daameh of Bethlehem was fatally shot at point-blank range on Oct. 26 and not during a car chase, as the policemen claimed.

The army said in a statement that security forces had uncovered a ring of Muslim activists connected with the Hamas organisation in the Gaza Strip. It said that several members were arrested, but that three in the gang were believed directly involved in kidnapping the soldiers had escaped.

The body of one of the missing soldiers has never been found, but an army statement said the detainees' interrogations have yielded the first concrete evidence that trooper Ilan Saadon, 18, reported missing last May 3, was dead.

U.S. vetoes resolution

The United States Tuesday vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have demanded that Israel return property confiscated from Palestinians during a tax protest.

The other 14 members of the council all voted for the resolution, which would also have sent a fact-finding mission to observe Israel's crackdown on the Palestinian uprising.

Arah League ambassador Clovis Maksoud said afterwards that "the U.S. veto, for all practical purposes, renders hollow its claims of sensitivity and sympathy for the Palestinian sufferings and its objections to Israel's clear violations of Palestinian human and civil rights."

"The U.S. veto means that the Palestinians would remain hostage to Israel's brutal measures without a consequential protection by the United Nations," said Maksoud.

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E. German politburo replaced

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's ruling Communist Party politburo, in a stunning concession to "people power," followed the government's example and resigned Wednesday to take responsibility for the political crisis.

Buckling under the pressure of huge protests and an exodus to the West, party leader Egon Krenz tendered the 18-man politburo's resignation at the start of a three-day meeting of the policy-making central committee.

The committee elected a new politburo headed by Krenz and proposed that reformist Dresden party chief Hans Modrow should become prime minister of a new government, the official news agency ADN said.

The decision came less than 24 hours after the entire government

of 40-odd ministers stepped down.

"With this move we (the politburo) want to make clear the responsibility for the present situation in East Germany," Krenz told the meeting after the resignation of the old politburo.

East German television, warning to its new-found openness, interrupted a black-and-white Soviet film to announce the news. ADN flashed the announcement with a dispatch that for the first time used bells to attract subscribers' attention.

Before the politburo action, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany called on the East German communists to surrender their monopoly on power, approve free elections and clear the way for economy reforms.

"With this condition, I am also

ready to discuss a new dimension in our economic aid," Kohl told parliament in Bonn. West Germany has several times offered East Berlin substantial new financial aid if wide-ranging reforms are embraced.

He said West Germany had a national duty to promote economic and political change and that there were fewer reasons than ever for the two countries to remain divided.

"The SED (East German Communist Party) must renounce its monopoly on power, allow independent parties and pledge to hold free elections," Kohl said in a state-of-the-nation address.

But he warned that economic help would be wasted unless East Germany adopted a market economy.

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Muawad in Beirut; Syria renews pledge of support

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Newly-elected Lebanese President Rene Muawad arrived Wednesday in west Beirut where he is expected to hold consultations to form a government of national reconciliation.

Muawad, who was elected Sunday at a rundown military base in north Lebanon, has been meeting deputies in the north to determine the nature of his cabinet.

The president cannot reach the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Ba'abda, held by troops of army chief Michel Aoun who rejected Muawad's election as unconstitutional.

Sources at Beirut's international airport where Muawad arrived in a private jet with four deputies said he headed in a heavily-guarded motorcade to a seaford area in west Beirut where he will be staying.

They said the airport, where Syrian and Lebanese security officials were on full alert, was decorated with Muawad's pictures and red-and-white

Syria has renewed its pledge to support Muawad in his struggle to topple Aoun.

"The Christian east is kidnapped," Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam told reporters in the north Lebanese town of Tripoli Wednesday.

"Our people in the east are now going through the ordeal of captives held in an aeroplane nr ship and we hope that this ordeal will not last," he said.

Khaddam was speaking after talks with Muawad.

Muawad continued talks in Tripoli before flying to Beirut Wednesday on forming a cabinet to include heads of feuding militias in an effort to undermine Aoun.

In a reference to Aoun, Khaddam said: "We are sure that the government of national reconciliation has all the potential and capability to eliminate any obstacle, whatever its source."

Asked whether the elimination would be military or political, he added: "This will be decided by the government of national re-

conciliation."

"Syria will carry out all the demands of the government of national reconciliation to extend its sovereignty and strengthen the role of Lebanon's state institutions," Khaddam said.

Khaddam was asked whether helping the government extend sovereignty meant Syria would withdraw from some areas following reports it would reward Muawad by leaving parts of the north.

"The question of withdrawal of Syrian forces has no relation to the issue of sovereignty as it was defined in the charter of national reconciliation," he said.

Aoun rejects an Arab peace plan also ratified Sunday for failing to ensure a withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops from Lebanon.

Parliamentary sources say Muawad is considering asking Samir Geagea, leader of the Christian Lebanese forces (LF), Nahli Berri, head of the Shi'ite

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Carbomb kills 4 in W. Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — At least four people were killed and 19 wounded Wednesday when a powerful car bomb erupted in west Beirut shortly before newly elected president Rene Muawad arrived in the city's western sector, police said.

The booby-trapped car went off in the Caracac neighbourhood, about three blocks away from the posh villa where Muawad planned to stay.

Police said a boy and a 37-year-old woman died in the car bomb, and the injured included one boy, six women and 10 men.

The windows in apartment and office buildings in the area were shattered by the 3:15 p.m. (1315 GMT) explosion. Half a dozen cars were set ablaze in a parking lot.

Syrian soldiers converging on the scene fired their AK-47 assault rifles into the air to make way for ambulances and fire engines that raced to the area.

Sudan tells U.K. to direct peace appeals to rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan called on Britain Wednesday to direct its appeals for peace in southern Sudan to the rebels waging civil war rather than the Khartoum government.

Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shummo said the British government should try to persuade the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to negotiate peace with the government, which already is willing to talk.

The rebel movement, led by renegade army Col. John Garang, has been fighting the central government since 1983 for greater autonomy and economic reforms in the three southern regions.

Shummo issued a prepared statement in reaction to a similar document read Tuesday at a news conference in Cairo, Egypt, by William Waldgrave, Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs. A copy of the statement was delivered in Khartoum to Sudan's Foreign Ministry.

Waldgrave's statement evenhandedly directed a peace appeal to both sides in the debilitating war, Garang's rebels and

the government of Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir that seized power in a June 30 coup.

"We call on both sides to return immediately to the ceasefire and to engage in peace talks in the spirit of flexibility and good will," Waldgrave said.

"Britain will continue to play its part, whether in contributing to humanitarian relief or in supporting diplomatic efforts to bring about a settlement," Shummo said. The government was surprised that the British appeal placed it and the rebels on an equal footing.

"It is common knowledge that it was the rebels who violated the ceasefire and the government only took the appropriate measures to defend its sovereign territory and its people," Shummo said.

A de facto ceasefire took effect last April to allow relief supplies to go to famine-threatened southern areas. Since taking office,

Bashir's government unilaterally has renewed the ceasefire for one-month periods.

The ceasefire held without major breaches until last month, when the government announced the rebels had seized the south eastern border town Kurmuk after heavy artillery shelling from neighbouring Ethiopia. Ethiopia denied that its territory was used in the assault.

Bashir has vowed to retake the town and has decreed the formation of a paramilitary force to help the army.

Unidentified planes bombed two rebel-held towns in the south after the Kurmuk battle. The rebels blamed the government for the attacks, but the government said it was investigating the incidents but never reacted officially to the rebel charge.

"We hope that the British government will double its efforts to persuade John Garang's movement to sit down for serious peace negotiations," Shummo said in his statement. "The Sudanese people are fed up with the war and its calamities and long for peace."



A Lebanese militia fighter weighs himself at a sandbagged pavement in predominantly Christian east Beirut. Sandbags are still erected in east Beirut with fears that peace might collapse.

Lebanese Communist Party chief threatens to kill Aoun

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese Communist Party chief Wednesday threatened to kill army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun for rebelling against newly elected President Rene Muawad, hindering a peace process in the war-ravaged country.

Muawad, a 64-year-old Maronite Catholic, was expected to drive Wednesday to Syrian-controlled mainly Muslim west Beirut from North Lebanon, where he has been holding consultations with various politicians since his election Sunday.

Sources said that before the end of the week, Muawad would announce the formation of a national reconciliation govern-

ment to end 14 years of civil war. George Hawi, secretary-general of the Syrian-backed Communist Party, was quoted as saying his militia has among its ranks other fighters like Soha Bishara, who tried to kill renegade Lebanese Army Maj. Antoine Lahd in South Lebanon last year. Lahd was wounded and treated in Israel.

"I stress that Soha Bishara who managed to strike at the head of treason in South Lebanon is capable of reaching the head of the secessionists and mutineers in east Beirut," he told the party newspaper An Nida.

Miss Bishara is still being held by Lahd's Israeli-backed militia,

the South Lebanon Army, which helps patrol Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The party comprises a few hundred fighters, most of them of Christian families.

Aoun, who headed a military cabinet in a dual government that ruled for 13 months, has rejected Muawad's election, a day after the general declared Saturday that he had dissolved parliament.

Aoun is against Muawad because of the president advocated close ties with Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon. Aoun fought the Syrians for six months this year until an Arab League truce was enforced in September.

Ibn Ali dashes opposition hopes of accelerated reforms

TUNIS (R) — President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali has dashed opposition hopes that the pace of democratic reform would accelerate in Tunisia and ruled out recognition of a political party based on Islam.

"We say to those who mix religion and politics: 'There is no room for any religious party,'" Ibn Ali said in a speech marking two years in power.

"Islam is the religion of everyone and it cannot be the object of competition or exploitation and it cannot be used as a platform for coming to power," he said.

Ibn Ali was clearly addressing the influential Islamic movement, whose candidates won about 13 per cent of the popular vote in parliamentary elections in April.

Of the recognised opposition parties, he said: "It will take a long time for these parties to win the presence and influence which would make them a factor for enrichment and vitality in our political system."

Ibn Ali's Democratic Constitutional Union (DCU) won 80 per cent of the popular vote and all 141 seats in the Chamber of Deputies in the April elections, fought under a controversial voting system.

The six opposition parties complained of irregularities in the voting and called again for amendments to the electoral code, which gives all the seats in each of 25 constituencies to the party which wins the most votes.

Ibn Ali defended the election system. "It would be wrong to seek excuses in the electoral code, which had no effect on the choice of the voters."

"For the first time in Tunisia's contemporary history, the elections were completely transparent and honest," he added.

Mohammad Moada, leader of the Movement of Socialist Democrats, the largest legal opposition party, told Reuters: "We were expecting something more than this."

Moada and other opposition leaders said last week that the drive for greater democracy seemed to have reached a dead end and urgent action was needed to revive its momentum.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iran condemns Gulf Arabs

NICOSIA (R) — Iran described as wrong and irresponsible a statement by Gulf Arab states backing Iraq's claim to the Shatt Al Arab waterway on the southern Iran-Iraq border. The Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the stance taken by information ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) represented "abject surrender to Iraqi pressure." Iran will never give up sovereignty over the eastern half of the Shatt Al Arab established by the 1975 Algiers agreement, he said.

Detained Israeli tanker released

CAIRO (AP) — Authorities have ordered the release of an Israeli-owned tanker detained almost three weeks after it allegedly spilled oil in Egyptian waters, the ship's owners said Wednesday. Yehoshua Goldstein, director of Tanker Services Ltd., which is owned partly by the Israeli government, told the Associated Press the 103,332-ton Panama-registered Nyuta is expected to steam for Israel Thursday. He said Joseph Zvi, the tanker's skipper, will be in command, as Egyptian authorities allowed him to leave despite a pending court case. The release order followed Egypt's acceptance of a \$1.5 million letter of guarantee obtained by the owners from the tanker's insurers in London, in line with a decision by President Hosni Mubarak to free the vessel on receipt of such a bond.

Libya denies link with Chad rebels

ROME (AP) — Libya has denied claims by Chad that it recruited, trained and equipped rebels who have launched attacks into eastern Chad from bases in Sudan. Chad claimed last Thursday that it had killed at least 600 Libyan-backed guerrillas, wounded 187 others and seized large stocks of weapons during a reprisal raid into Sudan on Oct. 27. The Chadian Foreign Ministry claimed the rebels were members of the Libyan Islamic Legion, which it said was comprised mostly of "thousands of Chadian and Sudanese workers in Libya" forced to take up arms against Chad after a short period of military training.

Israel, Cyprus dispute landing rights

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Israel's flag carrier is balking at an offer from Cyprus for landing rights at a secondary airport and Israel may cut the number of weekly flights by Cyprus Airways, the government news agency reported Tuesday. El Al, seeking to resume flights stopped after the 1974 Turkish invasion, is reluctant to land at Paphos Airport, 120 kilometres west of the main Larnaca International Airport, the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) reported. Cyprus is the main transit point for flights between Israel and the Soviet Union because there are no direct flights. The Soviet airline Aeroflot flies eight times a week to Cyprus and passengers often wait for days for a connecting flight. Cyprus Airways planned three flights a week to Tel Aviv this winter but it may be cut to two, CNA said.

Iraq seeks extradition treaty with U.S.

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq is considering signing an extradition treaty with the United States, the ruling party newspaper Al Thawra said Tuesday. Al Thawra said that the National Assembly has endorsed the proposal by the Foreign Ministry to sign such an accord. The paper said the 250-seat assembly debated the proposed accord Monday and had unanimously agreed that Iraq start negotiations with the United States to finalise the agreement. The accord would include repatriation of convicted criminals, mutual legal protection of citizens, recognition of laws and court sentences and the exchange of information about criminals or suspects. Iraq and the United States restored diplomatic ties in 1984, broken in 1967 after the Arab-Israeli war.

2 Swiss jailed over bogus tank sale

ZURICH (R) — A Swiss court sentenced two Swiss businessmen to two years' jail Tuesday for falsifying documents in a swindle involving the sale of 50 bogus tanks to Iran. The Zurich Higher Court said Max Bretscher, 62, and Walter Gnaedinger, 50, were cleared on more serious charges of fraud. A third defendant, Roland Huber, 40, was acquitted on all charges. The defendants were alleged to have struck a deal in 1981 with Sadeq Tabatabai, a former Iranian deputy premier, to sell Iran 50 U.S. M48-A3 tanks for \$67 million. Public Prosecutor Armin Felber said that when the men were unable to obtain the tanks, they forged documents to suggest the M48-A3s were under way and swindled Tabatabai out of a down payment of \$46.9 million.

Iranian minister meets Benjedd

ALGIERS (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has held talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedd, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. Velayati said they discussed the recent creation of a joint commission to strengthen bilateral ties that would soon hold its first meeting in Tehran. APS gave no other details, but Velayati said before leaving Tehran his talks in Algeria would cover Lebanon and stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks. He said Algeria, a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, could play a role in reactivating the U.N.-sponsored peace talks.

Turkish reporter killed in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — A reporter from Turkey's Popular Gazette newspaper was shot dead and a colleague seriously wounded on assignment in Istanbul, Gazette responsible editor Erucum Erkol said. An unidentified gunman fired after shooting dead Sami Basaran and wounding Ahmad Altinkaya in the ancient central district of Kumkapi.

Bush administration defends \$3.1 billion Saudi tanks deal

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration has urged Congress to approve a plan to sell 315 new battle tanks to Saudi Arabia, saying they could be used only in the kingdom's defence.

The \$3.1 billion deal came under sharp questioning at a congressional hearing but critics stopped short of saying they would try to kill it.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Clarke told two House Foreign Affairs Subcommittees that the Saudis would sign a pledge not to use the M1A2 Abrams tanks except for defence. Violation of the pledge would result in the United States withdrawing 500 U.S. technicians servicing the tanks, he said.

He told members of Congress

concerned about Israeli security the Saudis would consult with the United States if there were any doubt about the use of the tanks in a conflict.

"We, under the law, would make the determination if it was legitimate self-defence," he said. Representative Mel Levine, a California Democrat and a strong supporter of Israel, disputed administration assertions that Saudi Arabia had contributed to the Arab-Israeli peace process and suggested the tank sale could erode Israel's qualitative edge in arms.

Levine said he did not plan to mount a campaign of vigorous opposition to the sale, but said approval of the deal by Congress should not be seen as an indica-

tion of its position on a future sale of warplanes to the Saudis.

Congress can vote to reject the sale within 30 days by a joint resolution of the House and Senate.

Clarke said the Saudis needed the tanks to upgrade their force, now consisting of obsolescent French tanks as well as U.S. models. The new tanks are to be delivered between 1993 and 1996.

The weapons would make no appreciable change in the overall Arab-Israeli military balance, Clarke said.

He said the United States had not linked the tank sale to the Saudi purchase of Chinese CSS-2 medium range missiles, which Washington opposes as destabilising in the region.

Ozal to take oath as president

ANKARA (R) — Backed by less than one-in-six of his countrymen as prime minister, Turgut Ozal takes the oath as Turkey's new president Thursday with opponents denouncing him as a potential dictator.

Empty places at the inauguration will testify to the controversy created by the former premier's drive for the presidency.

Opposition parties plan to boycott the ceremonies and refused to take part in the election of Ozal, 62, Turkey's dominant politician for the past decade.

Others however depict Ozal's succession to ex-General Kenan Evren who led the 1980 coup as the end of the era of army generals in Turkish politics.

"With Evren's departure the 1980 coup era will be over," columnist Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the liberal daily Milliyet.

Ozal will only be the second civilian president out of the eight who have held the office in the past 66 years.

The opposition says Ozal, whose popularity slumped to about 15 per cent as inflation hit 73 per cent, was foisted on Turkey by an outdated parliamentary majority.

Ozal was elected president in the 450-seat parliament last week by his dominant Motherland Party in a vote boycotted by the two main opposition parties which have 155 seats.

"Ozal is heading for a full

dictatorship after taking control of the presidency, the Prime Ministry and the party leadership," Erdal Inom, leader of the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), told his deputies Tuesday.

"Ozal's presidency will be like his Prime Ministry. An era of controversy is beginning," warned ex-Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, head of the centre-right True Path Party (DYP).

Both parties said they will boycott the presidential oath-taking ceremony in parliament.

They fear Ozal, often autocratic during his six years as prime minister, will use the traditionally non-partisan post of president to keep his grip on politics.

Ethiopian rebels claim 250 troops killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Rebels claimed Wednesday that they have killed 250 government troops, wounded 400 and captured 71 others in fighting in north western Ethiopia.

Clandestine rebel radio Voice of the Tigray Revolution said the army suffered the losses during a battle on Oct. 28 in the province of Gondar.

Gondar is south of the rebel Tigre People's Liberation Army's

(TPLA) northern home province. Tigre, and west of Wollo province where the rebels have made significant gains since August.

The TPLF began preliminary peace talks in Rome on Saturday with an Ethiopian government delegation. The talks are aimed at ending the 14-year-old insurgency.

Two Ethiopian pilots defected last month after flying their prime minister to North Yemen for an

official visit, a political source said Wednesday.

The prime minister, Fikre Selassie Wogderess, was relieved on his duties Tuesday because of poor health, according to an announcement in Addis Ababa.

North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani confirmed that two Ethiopian air crew had been given political asylum in Sanaa but declined to give details.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children programme
17:00 Hifi Squad
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arab film

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Musical Opera
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:25 Guinness Record
21:10 Max Headroom
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Woman of Straw"

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 Fajr
07:55 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:10 Dhur
14:10 'Asr
16:45 Maghreb
18:04 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 8107-40
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 532785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Sille Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Assumption Church Tel. 625383

625543

Assumption Catholic Church Tel. 771351

775961

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 811295

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 627981, 683326

627981

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The weather will be windy particularly in southern and eastern areas with clouds appearing at medium and high altitudes. The winds will be southerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, the weather will be cloudy with winds northerly fresh and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 9/21

Aqaba 19/30

Deserts 7/21

Jordan Valley 18/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22.5, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Adnan Didi 626660
Dr. Ahmad Daga 676473
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Fakher Bilal 625778
Firas pharmacy 661912
Firas pharmacy 773536
Al Asena pharmacy 671055
Najroukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaouub pharmacy 644945
Shmeissan pharmacy 637660

IBRD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Shar' (—)

Al Shar' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rashid Atallah (—)

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630241

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 771012

Police 843402

Traffic Police 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642812

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Moham. J. Amn 636140

Palestine, Shmeissan 6641714

Shmeissan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muhsin Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771012

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 843402

Army, Madra 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:20 New Delhi (RJ)

09:40 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

10:15 London (RJ)

10:30 Larnaca (RJ)

11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

11:30 Cairo (RJ)

18:10 Camblanca, Tunis (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:45 Rome (RJ)

12:00 London (RJ)

12:30 Paris (RJ)

12:50 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The long trek is only beginning

SO IT came to pass that some 700,000 eligible Jordanians have cast their votes on a sunny and peaceful day to the candidates who won their trust and faith. Today the results of the voting will be officially declared by the concerned authorities. The Jordan Times seizes this opportunity to congratulate the winners for having succeeded in a most competitive race to the Lower House of Parliament. Words of appreciation and thanks are also due to the "losers" for having conducted such a dedicated campaign to educate the voters about the issues that are of concern to them. In many senses of the word, there are no real losers in the 1989 elections for they also contributed to the success of the whole story of this year's parliamentary elections after more than two decades of abstinence.

Now it is up to the winners of the elections to translate their words and promises into deeds in a responsible and balanced manner. Even more important is to have them perform their new roles from within the Lower House in a style and manner that will strengthen the collective and overall relevancy of the Parliament. All Jordanians have a stake in the well-being and future of the Jordanian Parliament and would very much like to see it develop and consolidate the gains achieved during this year's elections. As it is already projected, a sizeable opposition will establish roots in the new Parliament. It too will be called upon to carry on its necessary and vital role in a most meaningful and rational manner in order to serve as a nucleus for all future operational opposition within the Parliament. It goes without saying that no effective parliament can be had without nurturing from within it a sound and rational opposition with a view to presenting the other side of the coin in the most constructive and beneficial way.

Above all, all members of the new Parliament will be expected to stay in close contact with their respective constituencies and keep on reflecting their sentiments and views on a steady basis. The viability and relevance of the new Parliament cannot be maintained if this organic link between voters and deputies is broken after the elections are over. There will surely be new issues facing the country on which the deputies will still need the guidance of the electorate. This is the only way to make the new Jordanian Parliament a dynamic and responsive one capable of dealing with ever-increasing challenges and subjects confronting the Kingdom.

Last, but not the least, the road of the winners in the race to Parliament has been relatively long and hard. The road ahead, however, will be even longer and harder. The entire country hopes and prays that their new representatives will not fail them and that they will be always true to their pledges to the people and worthy of the trust and faith bestowed upon them.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies Wednesday gave extensive coverage in their editorials and opinion columns to the parliamentary elections in Jordan, the first in 22 years.

Al Ra'i said that as the voters go to the polls they might as well remember before casting the ballots that Jordan is heavy with problems and chronic issues awaiting solutions; and therefore only the most eligible people should be sitting in parliament for the next four years. The paper said that the elections in Jordan mark a new phase in democratic rule in the Kingdom; and the results are bound to have a significant effect on the country's political, social, and economic future. The paper urged the voters to heed the words of King Hussein who had said that the destiny of the nation was in the hands of the voters and also in the hands of those who will win their confidence and represent the Jordanian citizens in Parliament. The Parliamentary process, the paper said, should be exploited in the course of our joint efforts to confront and overcome the challenges and the serious problems facing this country. No matter what the results will be, said the paper, unity within the Jordanian family should be maintained and strengthened at all costs.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday commends Japan and its government for what he calls dealing a slap on the face of Israel by announcing its support for the projected international peace conference on the Middle East. Ibrahim Sakikha says that the Japanese government made the statement on the eve of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' visit to Tokyo where he said he will meet with Japanese government leaders to discuss Middle East issues. The writer notes also that Japan was careful in its statement to mention the PLO by name and to say that without the organisation's participation in peace negotiations there can be no peace and stability in the Middle East. By openly declaring its position with regard to the Middle East, Japan has thus presented its views to the foreign minister of Israel who might be trying now to change that position but is not expected to achieve his goal, says the writer. He says that world Zionism is known to be exercising pressure on all the Western nations to win them to its side and to gain backing for its repressive measures against the Palestinian people, but, he adds, this time the chances for Zionism and Arens are so dim that no pressure could bring about the aspired change. The writer pays tribute to Japan and says that by this announcement Tokyo has thus stepped into the process of giving momentum to the idea of the international conference.

Al Dustour daily, describing election day as a glorious day for Jordan, said Wednesday that the chance is presenting itself to hundreds of thousands of Jordanian citizens to express their views and to decide on the way they want to live by electing their deputies who will enact laws for them and share government business with the council of ministers for the coming four years.

The first answer to a refugee crisis is compassion

By Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

GENEVA — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohammad of Malaysia uses the word "scum" to describe the Vietnamese refugees who remain in his country after "resettlement countries come and select the best" among them. He implies he would treat them accordingly.

As the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 1965 to 1977 and as a Muslim, I find his attitude inhumane. It is not a basis for

coexistence in our modern world.

The Koran states that "those who seek protection should be protected and conveyed to a place of safety." Every religion, supported by the fundamental principles of humanity, calls on men and women to extend shelter and sustenance to their fellow human beings in distress, particularly the uprooted.

We all know what this "scum" has endured before reaching the refugee camps. Everyone, except presumably the prime minister of Malaysia, has seen the look on the faces of those who survived the nightmare. How would he

feel if his family had been raped and mutilated by pirates, or had been attacked by sharks or had died of thirst?

"Everyone, except presumably the prime minister of Malaysia, has seen the look on the faces of those who survived the nightmare. How would he feel if his family has been raped and mutilated by pirates, or had been attacked by sharks or had died of thirst?"

Not that we should be indifferent to the predicament of countries of first asylum. Some of them are bursting at the seams. But pushing people back is not the answer. Particularly since the atrocities of World War I but even before, the international community has painstakingly built, brick by brick, a system that strives to ensure the right of asylum.

The right of asylum is now enshrined in international public law as well as in the domestic legislation of many states. Yet today the whole process will be placed in jeopardy if attitudes

that typify human beings as "scum" and call for their removal should prevail. What would have happened to those who fled from genocide, pogroms, persecution and famine if they had not been allowed to seek succor in other countries?

Curiously, it is Great Britain, which now threatens to return refugees in Hong Kong to Vietnam against their will, that consistently spearheaded the international protection of refugees. How quickly principles publicly affirmed can be tempered to the whims of economic pressure.

The prime minister of Malaysia, with his 14,000 Vietnamese to contend with, should examine the African case. That continent has more than 4.5 million refugees and no country has ever turned them back. Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia and Sudan have well over half a million refugees each.

Yet compare the per capita income or gross national product of countries like Sudan with that of Malaysia, six or more times as great. These nations do not always have more space either. Burundi has 170 inhabitants per square kilometre, compared with Malaysia's 50 or fewer, and yet it

has accepted nearly 267,000 refugees. The asylum seekers in Africa are often from different tribes and the underlying ethnic tensions exist there as well.

These countries, though facing abject poverty, continue to share what little they have with the refugees. No African leader has ever called them "scum" and many have publicly referred to them as "brothers and sisters" in distress.

In 1971, India accepted 10 million refugees from what was then East Pakistan. Most of them gathered in Bengal, and particularly around Calcutta, a city not known for its affluence. Did these countries threaten to send back their refugees if the United States, Canada and Australia or other resettlement countries did not accept them? — or if, as Mr. Mahathir so eloquently put it "there is a slowing down in the offake?"

Forcibly returning displaced persons is no solution to the world's growing refugee problem. It not only imposes immense suffering on people who have already endured more than their share. It also exacerbates political tensions at home and abroad. The solution lies in other

directions. We speak of global security to preserve us from the nuclear sword of Damocles. Humanitarian global security is just as important if the mass exodus of people continues to destabilise the fabric of society.

A number of measures must be taken. These could include, as a palliative, more burden-sharing through effective action on the part of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its executive committee. Repatriation, provided it is voluntary, should certainly not be excluded, but it is not truly voluntary when it is presented as the only viable alternative to perpetual imprisonment.

More importantly, the industrialised countries — including the newly developed countries of South Asia — should focus their development aid, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to help improve the standard of living in the countries of origin of today's refugees. What better way to make use of Japan's impressive wealth and expertise?

Helping to provide hope would be more profitable in the long run than selling weapons. If rich countries to the North, towards which all refugees seem to flow,

complain that most are leaving for economic reasons, then surely something should be done about it. Forcing them to return will not solve the fundamental problem of the growing economic divide between the two hemispheres. These are the root causes and they should be addressed. Otherwise, people will continue to look for a better future elsewhere.

Refugees do not leave their homelands to go on a picnic. Most are deeply rooted, as we all are, including the prime minister of Malaysia, in their cultures, languages, traditions and family backgrounds. They have shown dignity, courage and resilience in the face of the most cruel adversity. Under normal conditions they love their homes and their way of life and would never choose to burn their bridges in such a drastic way.

Mr. Mahathir says, speaking of his country, that different religions, cultures and languages in multiracial society can be incompatible. But we live on a very small and vulnerable planet. We have no choice but to be compatible or we will all become refugees and some of us the "scum." — The International Herald Tribune.

Tunisians wait for more democracy

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's ruling party is celebrating two years under President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, but critics fear promised democratic reforms have stalled and may have gone into reverse gear.

Liberals, leftists and Muslim militants say restrictions still in force show that sweeping change pledged by Ibn Ali two years ago, when he ended 30 years of rule by President Habib Bourguiba, has a long way to go.

Ibn Ali, marking the Nov. 7 anniversary, renewed his democratic vows. Critics concede he has made progress, including legalising three new opposition parties and releasing jailed Islamic fundamentalists.

"Tunisia is determined to win the war of democracy," he told a symposium organised by the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union Party Nov. 4.

"Our people are conscious and mature enough for everyone to take part in running their

affairs," he said. French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and other foreign guests praised Ibn Ali's reforms. "There is great progress. The democratic situation is much better than in many Third World countries," said Rocard.

In the first months after deposing Bourguiba on grounds of senility, Ibn Ali abolished a state security court and invited opposition figures to talks on the country's future.

The secretary general of the ruling party, Abderrahim Zouari, said this week that reforms would continue.

But legal opposition parties say general elections on April 2, when the ruling party won all 141 seats in parliament, were not free and complain of restrictions on the press.

The Islamic opposition, probably the most influential force after the ruling party, has not yet been legalised and the leader of its Nahdha (Renaissance) Move-

ment, Rashed Ghannouchi, has gone into voluntary exile.

Ibn Ali's takeover "enjoyed extraordinary popular support and gave rise to great hopes," said Mohammed Harmel, leader of the Tunisian Communist Party. "Two years later, we have to admit that the hopes placed on change have started to collapse."

"April 2 was a great setback for all the achievements then under way," Nejjib Chebbi of the opposition Progressive Socialist Union told Reuters. "The record has since been negative and the situation is worsening."

Official sources said Nov. 4 that Ibn Ali had freed from jail two politicians close to Bourguiba. He also released an opposition politician jailed this year for insulting him.

Many Tunisians outside politics say Ibn Ali has brought improvements in human rights, cut government interference in the legal system and produced a general sense of greater freedom.

"You can almost say the courts are independent now. Interference hasn't disappeared but it's certainly much reduced," said a Tunis businessman.

"Ibn Ali's governments have been much more dynamic than those in Bourguiba's last years. You have the feeling they are serious about economic development," added a civil servant.

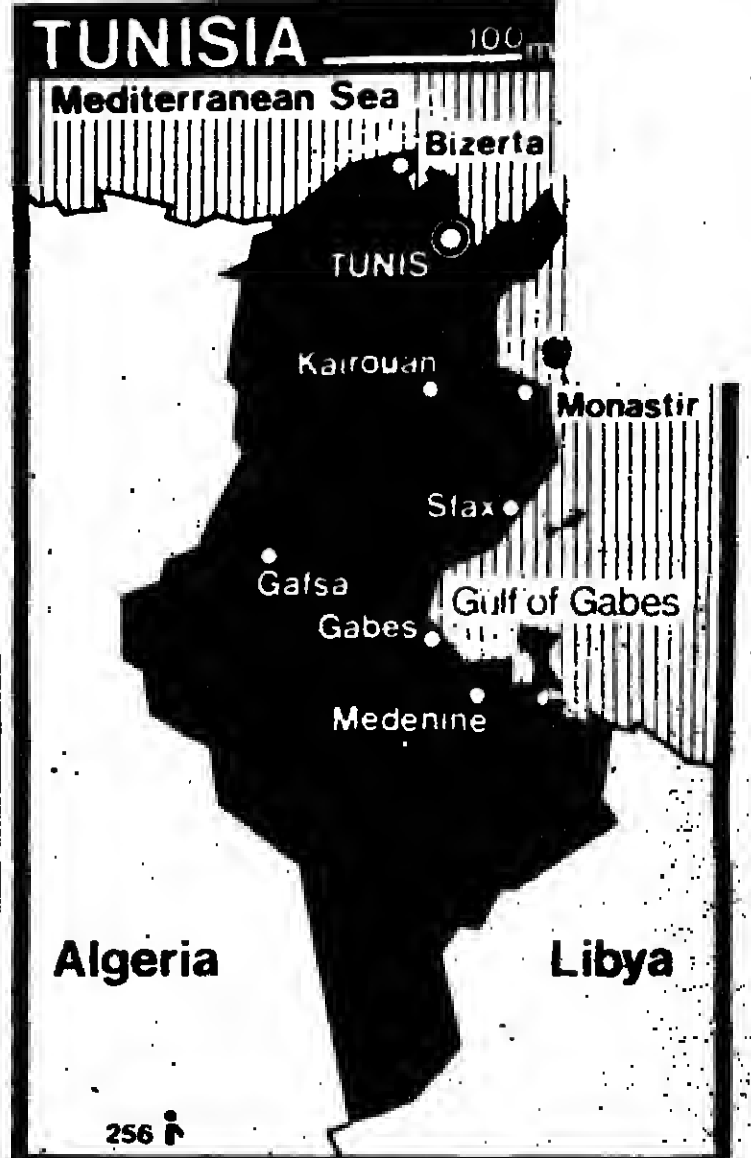
A new incentive for change is the example of neighbouring Algeria, which in the past year has evolved from a one-party state into a fledgling multi-party democracy.

Before Ibn Ali took power "Algerians on the border used to watch Tunisian television and envy us. Nowadays it's the other way round," said Mohammed Moad, secretary general of the Movement of Socialist Democrats, largest of the legal opposition parties.

Diplomats said Ibn Ali had been careful to keep control of the process of reform.

"The tradition of monarchist rule is alive and well in Tunisia, despite more than 30 years as a republic. And remember Ibn Ali's background in the military and the security apparatus," one diplomat said.

Before becoming head of state, Ibn Ali had been director of military security, director of national security and interior minister. He played a big role in army and police action during riots in 1978.



Quake brings political gain to Algerian fundamentalists

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — Political aftershocks from an earthquake last week are rumbling through Algeria, where opposition Muslim fundamentalists scored points with a widely-praised private relief effort.

Nine days after the quake toppled houses west of Algiers, killing 28 people, nearly all of the hundreds left homeless have received food and shelter, officials have said.

But local authorities of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) are still being accused of responding too slowly to the plight of victims and the political-sensitive issues of reconstruction and rebuilding loom.

"What happened in Tipaza and the capital from the beginning of last week leaves no room for doubt about the complete failure of (state) agencies to intervene," the Arabic daily El-Messa said on Nov. 6.

In a report from Tipaza, the hardest-hit region 65 kilometres west of Algiers, El Messa cited local praise for the Islamic Salvation Front which rushed in food, blankets and other supplies in cars marked with the party emblem.

The front, known by its French initials FIS, has quickly emerged as one of Algeria's strongest opposition parties since becoming legal in September.

Political analysts predict it will pose a strong challenge to the FLN in local elections due next

year, the first multi-party polls since independence in 1962.

The FIS tapped an outpouring of public sympathy, soliciting donations of food, tents and blankets in mosques and districts around the country.

"Everyone has helped us, especially the FIS," said Mohammed, a fisherman from the Turkish-era Casbah neighbourhood of Algiers who spent an eighth night on Nov. 7 in a tent in the capital's martyrs square after cracks appeared in his home.

He told Reuters the response of local authorities had been "correct."

The FIS has urged the government to provide prefabricated housing for the victims, but a commentary on the official APS news agency accused the front of exploiting the earthquake for political ends.

"A phenomenon which reason absolutely does not accept is the exploitation of the disaster and its effects on frightened and affected residents with the goal of fulfilling political ends," APS said.

Officials in Tipaza province had distributed 4,740 tents by Nov. 6, APS reported. But El Messa said some people in the towns of Nador Sidi Moussa were still sleeping out in the open.

The newspaper said a perceived lack of official reassurance and repeated aftershocks measuring up to 4.3 on the Richter scale had contributed to a climate of fear and wild rumours of imminent new quakes.

to be met, with many contras vowing to fight on and Nicaragua accusing Washington of blocking the plan.

The presidents also called for dialogue in El Salvador and some diplomats expressed hope that the peace process, having solved Nicaragua's problems, could turn its attention to El Salvador where some 70,000 people have been killed in a decade-long civil war.

But talk of peace appears to have been overtaken by a wave of violence that hit El Salvador this week, including a mortar attack against an army barracks and a bomb explosion at the offices of a human rights group.

Diplomats said they expected

intense activity in coming weeks to try and put the peace process back on track.

The Nicaraguan government was pinning its hopes on a meeting with the contras at the United Nations next week.

But the contras said Nov. 3 they did not have enough time to get ready for the meeting and asked for it to be postponed by a week.

The European diplomat said U.N. officials were in any case pessimistic that the meeting could solve anything.

Nicaragua wanted to discuss the demobilisation of the contras while the contras only wanted to talk about reinstituting the cease-

fire, he said.

Diplomats are also pessimistic about any quick solution to the El Salvador war, where U.S. interests are deeply entrenched.

Arias said he will meet Salvadorean rebels in Honduras on Monday to try and persuade them to reconsider a decision to suspend peace talks with the Salvadorean government.

"I'm going to talk to members of the Farabundo Marti (liberation front) to urge them to make sure this is just a temporary decision and that they don't abandon dialogue and negotiations," Arias told reporters, still hoping peace in Central America can be achieved.

Former street seller is favourite to be Brazilian president

By Stephen Powell
Reuters

SAO PAULO — A former street vendor and circus artist turned television magnate is suddenly favourite in the opinion polls to be the next president of Brazil.

Silvio Santos, 58, a smiling showman with the common touch, says he does not understand anything about politics.

But he topped a Gallup poll on Nov. 2 just two days after announcing his candidacy in the Nov. 15 election.

Santos is owner of Brazil's second biggest television network, Sistema Brasileiro de Televisao (SBT), and owes his popularity to a television quiz show.

His last-minute entry into an election, which will mark Brazil's full return to democracy after the 1964-85 military dictatorship, is hugely controversial.

Other candidates, businessmen and all leading national newspapers have roundly condemned what they see as a slight to democracy.

Santos shopped around for a political party before opting for the tiny Brazilian Municipal Party on Oct. 31.

He has no experience in politics and has said little publicly on

the subject. But he has sketched out his basic policy ideas in recent interviews and his sympathies are clearly with the political right.

Political analysts said Santos's candidacy was strongly encouraged by President Jose Sarney, motivated by his dislike for front-runner Fernando Collor de Mello.

Collor de Mello, who regularly accuses Sarney of incompetence and corruption, is now second in opinion polls.

Many educated Brazilians expressed outrage, disbelief and concern for the country's image in the world. Meanwhile, a large number of poor Brazilians rejoiced at the candidacy of a man who is far more familiar to them than any politician.

The Silvio Santos programme, on the air since the 1960s, has a regular audience of about 30 million people and is now considered part of a traditional Brazilian Sunday.

His game is not meant for the cerebral. The questions are of the type "Do you prefer making love in a motel or at home?"

Santos, whose real name is Senor Abravanel, is Jewish. He was born in Rio de Janeiro on Dec. 12, 1930 of a Turkish-born mother and Greek father.

He started work at age 14 selling pens and electoral docu-

ments in central Rio. Later his jobs included circus artist, bar owner and broadcaster.

With fellow broadcaster Manoel de Oliveira he founded a lottery 31 years ago that was to make him a millionaire.

The lottery, called *baixo da felicidade* (treasure chest of happiness), now brings in about \$20 million a year.

Besides the SBT television network and the lottery, Santos owns a new bank, Panamericano, and has a variety of enterprises in industry, commerce and farming. His companies employ some 15,000 mainly in Sao Paulo.

The Silvio Santos group as a whole is expected to have turnover this year of about \$360 million, according to press estimates.

Santos is one of very few candidates who says plainly he would pay the \$108-billion foreign debt. Most leading candidates say they would seek a reduction of the debt burden.

Santos lives in a mansion in the chic Sao Paulo suburb of Morumbi with his second wife Iris and their four daughters. He had two daughters with his first wife Gladinha, who died of cancer.

He is described as a workaholic by the Brazilian press and is frugal in his habits. He doesn't smoke and doesn't drink.

Focus on People

A voter speaks

By Mariam M. Shahin

IN A DUSTY, windy alley a young man, his hair uncombed, tucks in his shirt and pulls up his socks. As the sun shines on his dark brown curls he walks anxiously through a crowded street in the Baqaa refugee camp outside Amman. The camp is the newest, poorest and with an estimated population of 100,000 residents, the largest camp in Jordan. It was erected in the aftermath of the 1967 war.

Wednesday had special significance for him. It was the first time in his life that Ahmad Mahmoud will "stand up and be counted." For the first time since Ahmad was born 22 years ago, elections are being held in his country — Jordan. His status as a camp resident has not undermined his right to vote as any other Jordanian citizen.

Outsiders often see camp residents as people living on the periphery of the country's political and economic life, depending on hand-outs from U.N. agencies and welfare organisations. But what has come to be known as the "camp culture" has bred a generation of politically and economically conscious youngsters who may well put the well-polished children of Jordan's upper and middle classes on the periphery. This week, voter, Ahmad Mahmoud, a 22-year-old auto mechanic, talks to Focus on People.

All his life Mahmoud has felt that "the people in the camps were neglected." "It seems that the people don't think we need municipal services," he complained. "They have not bothered to cover our sewers or provide us with running water or public transportation."

Ahmad feels that although being of Palestinian origin is very important to him, it is certainly not a main criteria in his "election policy."

"I have voted for three East Bankers because I believe that they will look out for my best interests and the interests of the people in the camp," he said. "Palestinian politics is one thing and Jordanian politics is quite another, and although many people in the elections have tried to combine and confuse the two, most people in the Baqaa camp are well aware that they are two separate things and must be treated separately."

Almost two thirds of Baqaa residents are children under 18 years of age and all of them attended UNRWA schools where they received an extensive background in all academic subjects including history, geography and philosophy. Mahmoud said he knew all about Marx, perestroika, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King as well as Keynes and Friedman and that his idea of economic recovery for Jordan was embedded "in a mixture of many economic theories." He hoped that Jordan's International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan would be cancelled and "if not then may be we could make another agreement."

Having learned his profession as an auto-mechanic in his teens, Mahmoud believes that more youth should learn to work with their hands, because "it's easy to find work and the pay is good. My brothers spent my parent's money on a fancy university certificate which decorates our wall and they work on and off."

"I know we are a Third World country, but that doesn't mean we should give up and accept bad conditions or emigrate. We should stay and change the things that are wrong," Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud has hope that the democratic atmosphere and the freedom of speech which have reigned during the election period will continue when Parliament goes into session.

Oriental cithara finds master in the West

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — Unusual isn't the word. This fair, blue-eyed virtuoso of the superbly difficult Oriental cithara, called Qanoun, has won over audiences in the West as well as the East. He was born Julien Weiss in eastern France 36 years ago, but now uses the name Julien Ibn Jalal Weiss, a change symbolic of his conversion to Islam two years ago.

"It was a spiritual necessity and it was inevitable," he explains almost shyly, describing his exploration of the Arabic culture.

The Qanoun, an ancient triangular-shaped instrument with 78 strings, requires years of learning. It is played with only the two index fingers, which are usually fitted with reeds that provide nail extensions. The instrument lies flat on the lap or on a table while the musician plucks the cords which are grouped in sets of three.

Starting with a good knowledge of classical guitar, it took Weiss 12 years to become proficient and learn the culture surrounding the Qanoun. He owns five of them, probably more than any other Frenchman considering the price of about \$3200 for each instrument.

There are different types of Qanoun, Weiss explained during an interview at his home in Paris. "There is the Egyptian one, which has four or five (musical) keys for each set of three strings, and then there is the Syrian Qanoun from the city of Aleppo, with 11 keys for each set of three strings." Being a purist, he considers the Aleppo Qanoun considered closer to the origins of the instrument.

Top-class players are few and far between, and Weiss is considered one of the best. Maybe because of the difficulties involved, the art of playing the Qanoun is disappearing, he laments. "Musicians just can't be bothered. In Egypt they have already simplified the way it is played. Aleppo is perhaps the only place where people still play it right, they still have an ear for it."

Now the electric organ is often replacing the Qanoun. "It's so much easier to play: with one hand you can play the tune very

fast, and with the other you can fiddle around with various switches that will give you the Arab range of notes. Also you will get a lot more sound out of it... It's a new trend, a modern sound."

One problem with learning the Qanoun is that no methodology exists. Weiss drew from his long experience as a classical guitarist to transpose the knowledge and technique of Western classical music into traditional Arab music. "You are playing with only two fingers, yet you have to manoeuvre the keys at the same time, it can get very hectic," he explains.

Born from imagination

Recognised as at least a 1000 years old, the Qanoun was introduced into Spain by the Arabs in the 11th century, by which time it was commonly used in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Experts believe that it was born from the imagination of one of the greatest Muslim philosophers — Al-Farabi — in Uzbekistan near what's now the border between Iran and the Soviet Union.

Another great philosopher, Al-Kindi, was an inspiration for Weiss, to the point that he named the musical ensemble he founded in 1983 "Al-Kindi." A sage from the 9th century, Al-Kindi is famous for commissioning the translation into Arabic of the Greek philosophers — Plato, Aristotle... — but also for being the first great theorician of Arab music.

The three-man Al-Kindi group, quite popular in France, includes a Tunisian flutist, Mohamed Saada, and Egyptian percussionist Adel Shams Eddin, but other Arab musicians join them for special occasions. They have played all over Europe, taking their music as far north as Finland, Norway and Denmark. The real test, though, was to play before connoisseur audiences in the Arab World — North Africa, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Kuwait.

Weiss' love affair with the Islamic culture goes back to his teenage days when he discovered Morocco and the old city of Marrakech, absorbing the seeds of what was to become an all-consuming dedication to Arab music. Today Weiss points out that the musical traditions he loves are

fast disappearing under the assault of insipid Westernised adaptations. "Like other parts of the world, the Middle East is being invaded by mediocre Anglo-Saxoo garbage," he says.

Recalling his first step in the direction of the great classics, he admits he did it almost unwittingly. The Egyptian cultural centre in Paris, headed by Farouk Hosni, asked him to compose some music for a show it sponsored. At the time Weiss was known only as a classical guitarist. "It was thanks to Hosni — now minister of culture — that I decided to study Arab music. At his home I heard a record of Munir Bashir playing the Qanoun, which prompted me to go study in Cairo."

Discovering the wealth of Arab music

"I discovered that one could be even more expressive in this musical language that is not based on rigid rules of harmony and polyphony." The lack of easily identifiable melody often makes Westerners uneasy, he adds, and they feel that the music is out of tune. "I am trying to help Westerners discover the wealth of Arab music, so I choose a varied repertoire, alternating between simple and complicated pieces."

After studying for nine months in Cairo under the late Kamel Abdallah — "a great master," says Weiss — he returned to Paris with a suitcase full of partitions and set to work more than six hours a day. "What's wonderful is that unlike classical guitar which is a solitary occupation, the Qanoun allowed me to practice with other musicians," he says.

"Of course it's a disadvantage not to have been in contact with the Arab world earlier, but it was no more difficult for me than it would be for a Japanese musician to learn Western classics." Sometimes being an outsider becomes an advantage, he points out: while many Arab musicians tend to play only their country's music, Weiss' concerts include an international fare. "It would not occur to most Egyptians to play or learn Moroccan music," he adds.

In his early days Weiss worked with several popular singers, but he now concentrates on classical



Julien Ibn Jalal Weiss and his Qanoun: this Frenchman who converted to Islam is among the few musicians who have mastered this difficult instrument.

music and is known as a composer and soloist. To his credit are an hymn celebrating the 900th anniversary of the university of Bologna in Italy, and a piece in memory of Munir Bashir which he played before an Iraqi audience at the first Babylon festival in 1987.

"Finally I could drop the com-

plex of being a foreigner playing Arab music," he explains. "I try to find the Arab spirit and at the same time retain my own identity." Set on perfecting his skills he still keeps up his heavy practice schedule. Plans include the release of a record mixing music from Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt, and in 1990 the Al-Kindi

group will tour Japan, Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen and Sudan.

Back home Weiss also works hard to make his compatriots listen. "In a way, being French, I am just the right person to get the message out," he says. The Islamic culture "is so rich that it will take me a lifetime to explore it."

— World News Link

The Blue Danube is blue no longer

By Don Hinrichsen

CYNICS SAY that Hungary stands firmly on two legs; the only problem is that one foot is in the 21st century, the other in the 19th. Although Hungarian environmental science is top-notch, policy and implementation lag far behind, and the gap between what is said and what is done have never been more apparent.

These days, environmental "atrocities" are making Hungary's front pages. Journalists are writing with a candour that would have been impossible in the pre-1989 era. But the one issue which has galvanised public opinion and launched dozens of environmental organisations is the raging debate around Nagymaros, a dam that will straddle the Danube River near Visegrad, some 40 km north of Budapest.

The increasingly vocal protests concern not only the dam but its site, the Danube Bend where the river alters its east-west course

and turns south through Hungary's heartland. Nestled between steep hills, the Bend is one of the most photographed spots on the entire 2,600-km length of the Danube. "This is the last place you would want to put up an ugly mass of reinforced concrete," gripes one outraged Hungarian journalist.

The decision to build the dam apparently was made in 1977, when Hungary and Czechoslovakia signed a joint agreement to develop the river for hydropower generation and to improve navigation. The energy-starved Czechoslovaks immediately began work on Gabčíkovo, a huge hydropower complex just east of the industrial town of Bratislava. Nearly 70 per cent complete, Gabčíkovo is being built across one of the Danube's many side channels: it consists of a maze of canals and contains a vast reservoir covering 61 km². When completed, it should have a generating capacity of 720 megawatts.

Because of financial constraints and doubts about the project's environmental side-effects, Hungary did not proceed with its part of the plan until 1985, when the Austrians stepped in. Prevented by their own vociferous Greens from building a dam across the Danube at Hamburg, Austrian authorities offered to pay 70 per cent of the \$3 billion project costs for Nagymaros in return for 1.2 billion kilowatts of electricity stretched out over a 20-year period. Opponents of the dam claim that because of this deal, Hungary will get only a trickle of electricity from Nagymaros and will suffer irreversible environmental damage in the process.

The debate over Nagymaros has engulfed the science community, politicians and the public. The debate has intensified since May 1988 when Karoly Grosz, Hungary's dynamic new Communist Party head, took over the reins of state from Janos Kadar. As part of Grosz's more open approach,

he released many of the background documents on the dam to the public. The result was a torrent of public outrage.

Nagymaros has galvanised Hungary's emerging environmental movement, or Blues as they are called by the Western media. The Blues number some 30 different environmental groups, with names like Friends of the Danube, Save the Danube, the Blue Danube, and the Danube Circle. Last year they were brought together as the Accon Union, an umbrella organisation. On Sept. 12, 1988, over 20,000 people gathered in front of the parliament building in downtown Budapest to protest construction of both dams. This was followed by a month of protests, culminating in a human chain that stretched through the centre of Budapest on both sides of the river.

Critics charge that in addition to drastically altering the river's hydrology, the dams will render

the Danube biologically dead in some sections. Fish populations could be reduced by more than 50 per cent, with some species disappearing altogether. Even worse, the dams may aggravate a problem that has been literally just under the surface for years: the increasing pollution of the Danube from cities and industries. Since the 1960s, it has been burdened with millions of tonnes of untreated sewage and industrial wastes. Both Nagymaros and Gabčíkovo could contribute to the problem by concentrating pollution, especially during the drier summer months when the Danube's flow is greatly reduced.

Furthermore, there is a risk that toxics, like heavy metals, would enter the bottom sediments in increasing quantities, and from there percolate into the groundwater along the Danube, the source of most of Budapest's drinking water.

Environmentalists estimate that building the number of sew-

age treatment plants that are needed along the Hungarian part of the Danube will require investments of up to \$327 million.

Providing proper sewage treatment for Czechoslovakia's section would require another \$3.2 billion. Neither country has this kind of money available.

Even when sewage and industrial wastewater treatment plants are built, they often do not function properly. One problem is sewage sludge disposal. At Budapest, a new two-stage sewage-treatment plant, handling nearly 20 per cent of all municipal and industrial wastes from the capital, is plagued with heavy metals in the sludge. "Because of the presence of toxic metals like chromium," says Janos Vargha, leader of the Danube Circle, "the sludge cannot be disposed of on farmland, as is usually the case. Instead, it is simply discharged back into the Danube at night!"

— PEOPLE features.



Tens of thousands of mainly young people from the GDR have arrived in the Federal Republic of Germany, the majority via Hungary, since August. Many have come by car, others by rail, including trains specially laid on. Several hundred thousand ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe have joined them in the Federal Republic already this year. Federal Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble is here seen conversing with a family newly arrived from the Soviet Union. (Photo: Dad/dpa)

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Morocco trade deficit jumps 60%

RABAT (R) — Morocco's trade deficit grew more than 60 per cent in the first half of this year, denting a two-year economic boom and financial readjustment programme.

Officials blamed the poor economic performance largely on costlier oil and wheat imports, and the loss of a 500,000-tonne phosphoric acid contract with India.

According to official figures published Wednesday, the cost of imports soared 16.6 per cent compared to the first half of last year, up from 19 billion dirhams to 22 billion (\$2.26 to \$2.6 billion).

Exports fell 4.6 per cent from 13.2 to 12.6 billion dirhams (\$1.6 to \$1.5 billion), pushing up the

trade deficit to 9.5 billion dirhams (\$1.13 billion) compared to 5.8 billion (\$700 million) in the same period last year.

Oil cost Morocco 28 per cent more and higher prices pushed the wheat import bill up 30 per cent.

Last year phosphate exports, the mainstay of the economy, boomed, increasing 40 per cent over 1987 to swell Morocco's coffers by over 11 billion dirhams (\$1.32 billion).

In the first six months of 1989 phosphoric acid sales slumped by nearly 80 per cent, although phosphate rock exports grew seven per cent and fertilizers 23 per cent.

The Confederation Generale Economique Marocaine (CGEM) businessmen's association said the situation was "very fragile" and the time had come to put the brake on trade liberalisation.

Morocco joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) last year and almost 95 per cent of imports are now unrestricted and tariffs reduced to 45 per cent or less.

Bumper harvests, cheaper oil,

lower dollar and interest rates enabled Morocco to register a current account surplus of \$21 million last year.

Analysts say there will be a deficit this year and inflation is expected to be more than twice last year's 2.8 per cent. The official cost of living index rose 5.7 per cent in the first nine months and will top six per cent by year end.

The higher cost of living is partly due to increases in basic food prices, raised this year at the behest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF wants Morocco to cut state subsidies in a financial readjustment programme.

World trade booms to \$2.7 trillion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The world traded a record \$2.7 trillion worth of goods last year, with the United States and 19 other industrial countries accounting for \$2 trillion of it, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported.

The overall total was an increase of 15 per cent over the year before, a rise only slightly less than the 18 per cent increase of 1987. Trade also increased when measured in tonnage instead of dollars, and it was increasing faster than world output as it has generally done since the 1970s.

But a separate study by the

fund warned of new restrictions. Inclusive figures in the IMF's annual "Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook" for 1989 were made available on Monday. They covered 1961 countries including China.

The Soviet Union and some of its allies, which are not members of the IMF, were handled separately. The fund reported that trade also increased substantially, after declines or small changes over the past five years, but they accounted for only two per cent to three per cent of the world's commerce.

West Germany shipped \$323 billion worth of goods as the world's biggest exporter, which it

has been since 1986. The United States showed the biggest increase — 26.7 per cent — to follow close behind with \$320 billion. Japan was third with \$265 billion.

The United States remained the biggest importer with \$460 billion worth, compared with West Germany's \$251 billion and Britain's \$189 billion.

Third World countries, especially the rapidly industrialising countries of Asia, boosted their imports.

Taiwan bought \$50 billion worth of foreign goods, up from \$35 billion the year before, and South Korea \$51 billion instead of \$41 billion. Both were still selling much more than they bought: Taiwan \$60 billion and South Korea \$61 billion.

Africa's trade also increased, but 10.5 per cent it grew more slowly than in the rest of the world.

Latin America's trade continued strong growth — 16 per cent for exports and 15 per cent for imports — though the pace was slower than in 1987.

In the Middle East, export grew by only 3.4 per cent as oil sales levelled off. Middle East imports increased at about the same pace as the world's: 15.3 per cent.

The share of the Third World as a whole in global trade increased to more than 26 per cent but did not reach the levels of the earlier 1980s, when it accounted for almost a third.

Meanwhile, the European Community (EC) Tuesday accused the United States of creating "a yawning credibility gap" in world trade by failing to change two import fees in line with international rules.

The U.S. representative at a meeting of GATT was quoted as saying the matter was being dealt with and it was too early to talk of retaliation against the United States.

Canada and Mexico joined the 12-nation EC in demanding at the regular meeting of GATT's ruling council that Washington explain what it intended to do to amend the two fees which had been found illegal by the world trade body two years ago.

EC delegate John Beck said there was a gap between Washington's words and deeds.

He asked if the United States was prepared to live up to GATT rules itself, or merely asked other countries to do so, the sources said.

Separate GATT disputes panel ruled in 1987 that the United States should amend both its superfund oil tax and its customs user fee.

The panels said the superfund tax was discriminatory since tax on imported oil was higher than on domestic oil, and the customs fee exceeded the real cost of processing imports and had become a source of U.S. revenue.

The United States told the council that legislation to amend both fees was contained in a bill that had been approved by the House of Representatives, but had been dropped from a version of the bill adopted by the Senate.

Canadian delegate Robert Wright said this seemed to indicate that the legislation was dead, but U.S. trade ambassador Rufus Yerxa replied that this was incorrect, the sources said.

Yerxa said the United States was committed to have the legislation passed in the current session of Congress, due to end later this month or in early December, and the issue would be discussed at a House-Senate conference session.

Yerxa said it was therefore premature for the council to act on requests by Canada and the EC for authority to take retaliatory action against the United States to compensate for trade losses due to the fees.

He added that if no result was forthcoming from Congress it would be appropriate for the council to return to consider the Canadian and EC requests for authorisation to withdraw trade concessions.

GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel, speaking at a separate debate, and without referring to the United States, complained about long delays between adoption of reports by GATT disputes panels, and implementation of their findings by countries concerned.

"There is considerable room for improvement in this area if GATT dispute settlement is truly to become... a central element in providing security and predictability to the multilateral trading system," he said.

Congress ups U.S. debt ceiling

WASHINGTON (R) — Congress has given the government more room to borrow, narrowly averting what would have been the first U.S. default on international and domestic debt.

Lawmakers approved a bill late Tuesday night that raised the federal debt ceiling to a record \$3.1 trillion for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, from the current \$2.8 trillion.

Current outstanding debt of \$2.83 trillion made the new debt ceiling necessary.

The Senate passed the bill by a voice vote after a compromise that untangled the debt-ceiling increase from disputes over health insurance and other controversial issues.

The bill then passed quickly through the House of Representatives on a vote of 269 to 99 and was sent to President George Bush for his signature into law.

This will allow the treasury to issue \$40 billion in long-term and short-term bonds this week, which Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady had postponed until the borrowing limit was raised.

Brady said last week that Congress had to act by Tuesday to avoid a government default.

The treasury would have run out of funds Thursday if it was not able to sell more government securities.

It has \$12 billion cash on hand, but faces a \$13.7 billion payment Thursday when an outstanding series of treasury bills will mature.

A default could have had dire consequences. Banks would have been unable to honour checks issued by the treasury and holders of maturing federal securities would have been unable to cash them in.

Delaying passage of the debt-limit bill also would have exerted upward pressure on interest rates, threatening to plunge the country into a recession, according to budget analysts.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen said damage to investor confidence caused by a default would have forced the government to pay much higher interest rates on its debt.

Shearson plans new layoffs

NEW YORK (R) — Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., one of the largest U.S. brokerage companies, said Tuesday it would lay off several hundred workers over the next few weeks because of a recent slowdown in stock market activity.

The cuts would be the largest since the layoffs that followed the October 1987 New York market crash.

A memo circulated to Shearson employees Monday said the cut-back would mainly affect New York City employees and reflected the downturn in market activity.

Industry sources estimated that about 800 Shearson employees would receive layoff notices. Shearson's work force worldwide totals about 38,500.

Shearson's investment banking revenues were sharply lower in

the third quarter of the year, reflecting a slump in corporate underwriting and slower merger and acquisition activity.

Shearson, like other brokerages, is expected to report a lower trading profit for the fourth quarter in light of the slowdown in market activity.

Other brokerages may take Shearson's lead in cutting back staff as the Oct. 13 market plunge and subsequent market volatility have sidelined many investors and put pressure on takeover stocks.

Most brokerages began tightening their operations after the October 1987 crash, when an estimated 17,000 employees were laid off. Thousands more are expected to lose their jobs soon due to the current market slowdown.

The recession that has hit Wall

Street is a far cry from the heyday of the raging bull market just a few years ago when money flowed like water and brokerage firms hired with abandon.

Wall Street changed greatly in the 1980s, going from miserly, closely held partnerships to major multinational corporations. The 1987 crash brought the go-go days on Wall Street to a halt and sent brokerages in search of revenue.

Wall Street then found it could make money by advising clients on takeovers and even started buying companies with its own money as it expanded into merchant banking. But now, the takeover boom may be coming to a close.

A source said the Shearson layoffs were not likely to have a significant financial impact on the company.

Perrier sells soft drinks unit

PARIS (R) — French beverage group Perrier has said Tuesday it was selling off its soft drinks unit to concentrate on the growing global thirst for its sparkling mineral water.

"We think that the mineral water market throughout the world is dramatically expanding, in the same way it did in France 20 years ago," financial director Marcel Richard told Reuters.

Richard said Perrier, the world leader in mineral water, hoped to sell Compagnie Francaise de Boissons Gazeuses S.A. for up to 2.6 billion francs (\$400 million).

Apart from its own brands Oasis, Pschitt and Bali, it was bottling and distributing licences

in France for Pepsi Cola. Total sales of soft drinks in 1988 amounted to only 1.15 billion francs (\$182 million) of the group's turnover of 15.15 billion francs (\$2.4 billion).

PepsiCo Inc. of the United States said Monday it had decided to terminate its franchise relationship with Perrier from Dec. 31, 1990, citing poor sales.

Richard declined immediate comment on Pepsi's decision. "Any move by Perrier to sell its soft drinks activities could not be made without Pepsi's approval," Stu Haugen, Pepsi's general manager for France and Belgium, told Reuters.

"Pepsi's market share in

France for Cola drinks dropped to about 10 per cent now from around 18 per cent in the early 1980s in the face of a dramatically expanding market," Haugen said.

Pepsi has not decided whether it will handle its operations in France itself from 1991 or link up with another French company, he added.

In May, Pepsi's main rival Coca-Cola Co., agreed to buy back its activities in France from Pernod-Ricard for 890 million francs (\$141 million).

Coca-Cola controls about 80 per cent of the French Cola market.

World Bank to look into arms expenditure

OTTAWA (R) — World Bank President Barber Conable said Tuesday that loan applications from borrowing nations may be affected by how much they spend on the military.

"We are going to have to start looking at military expenditure," Conable told journalists at a meeting of the international Planned Parenthood Federation.

"By that I don't mean the bank is going to become an expert on military expenditures. But there are a few countries that are spending 50 per cent of their budget on the military. How can they be expected to have a reasonable development prog-

ramme if we tell them we will just ignore military spending?" he inquired.

Conable singled out Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia as examples of countries whose military spending was too high.

In a keynote speech to the international family planning organisation, Conable said the World Bank would also temper its support for industrial development in borrower countries with the environmental and social impact of such progress, and encourage borrowers to slow their population growth.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday November 8, 1989		Swiss franc	389.1	393.0
Central Bank official rates		French franc	100.7	101.3
		Japanese yen (for 100)	439.0	443.4
		Dutch guilder	302.6	305.6
		Swedish crown	38.2	39.2
		Italian lira (for 100)	46.7	47.2
		Belgian franc (for 10)	162.4	164.0
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell		
Pound Sterling	631.0	637.0		
Deutschmark	996.7	1006.7		
	341.6	345.0		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5870/80	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.6889/98	Canadian dollar	
	1.8410/17	Deutschmarks	
	2.0773/80	Dutch guilders	
	1.6135/45	Swiss francs	
	38.55/58	Belgian francs	
	6.2390/2440	French francs	
	1344/1345	Italian lire	
	142.78/88	Japanese yen	
	6.4020/40	Swedish crowns	
	6.8950/9000	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1410/60	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	385.60/386.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stock prices slipped in trading subdued by the closure of the Melbourne Stock Exchange for a horse race. The All Ordinaries index closed 8.8 points down at 1648.2.

TOKYO — Edgy investors with an eye on currency and interest rates depressed share prices to close broadly lower in moderate trading. The Nikkei index eased 163.54 to 35,270.46.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed easier with attention concentrated on Hongkong Bank stock. The Hang Seng index fell 18.09 to 2,738.09.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier but above the day's lows in quiet trade after bargain-bunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.99 to 1,320.48.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower for the second day as the market continued to be rocked by talk that the exchange authorities planned to impose curbs on trading.

FRANKFURT — German share prices plunged by 1.8 per cent. The DAX index dived 26.31 points to 1,428.07.

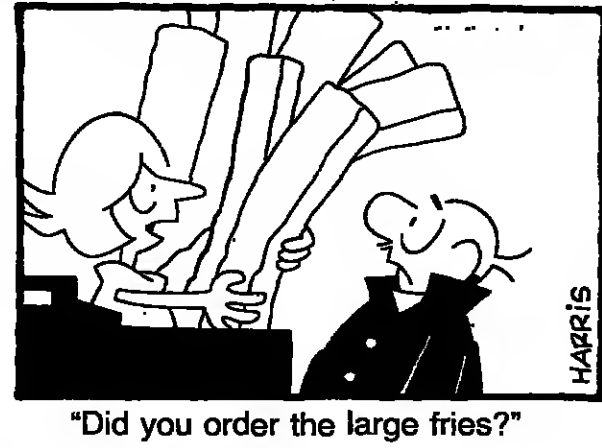
ZURICH — Swiss shares closed broadly lower but above morning lows in moderate trading. The all-share Swiss performance index was down 6.7 points to 1,075.8.

PARIS — French share prices were close to their day's lows at midsession. The CAC-40 index was 19.71 points down at 1,763.21 by 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Shares staged a modest rally to stand mixed to firmer in thin afternoon trade. By 1543 GMT the FTSE 100 was 3.8 points up at 2,173.4.

NEW YORK — Technical support lifted blue chips from early losses to a small gain, but the general market remained narrowly lower. The Dow was ahead two at 2584.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O - O O O O" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRANK SHINY TIMELY FEWEST Answer: Often dropped but seldom picked up—HINTS

CIA: Average Soviet earns \$8,850

WASHINGTON (AP) — The CIA says the average Soviet citizen earned the equivalent of \$8,850 last year, less than half the average American's earnings of \$19,970.

The Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) "Handbook of Economic Statistics 1989" shows the U.S. figure was higher than that of other major non-communist countries, with the average Japanese shown as earning \$14,340 and the average West German \$14,260.

Earnings of the average American grew by 2.9 per cent in 1988. The average Soviet citizen enjoyed an increase of only 0.5 per cent.

The handbook's 1988 edition did not include a figure for the Soviet Union, though other statistics indicate the average

citizen's earnings there was \$8,363 in 1987, compared with \$18,200 for the average American.

The CIA makes these comparisons on a "purchasing power" basis. That means it does not translate foreign earnings into dollars at prevailing exchange rates, but at theoretical rates that would equalize the cost of a basket of goods and services in the two countries being compared. The document did not say what those theoretical rates were.

A few other comparisons were given for 1988: Life expectancy was 69 years for the Soviet Union, 75 years for the United States and 78 years for Japan. The average American used up energy equal to burning 56 barrels of oil, while the average Soviet consumed only 35 barrels

worth. There were a few more cars than one for every two Americans — 572 per thousand — and only one for every 24 Soviets — 42 per thousand, according to the CIA. The Soviet figure came from 1986 and may have grown by 1988.

Soviet international trade was closer to balance than America's. The United States imported \$128 billion worth of goods more than it exported, while the Soviets had a surplus equal to \$3.4 billion.

Total production of goods and services in the Soviet Union was valued at \$2.5 trillion, compared with \$4.9 trillion for the United States.

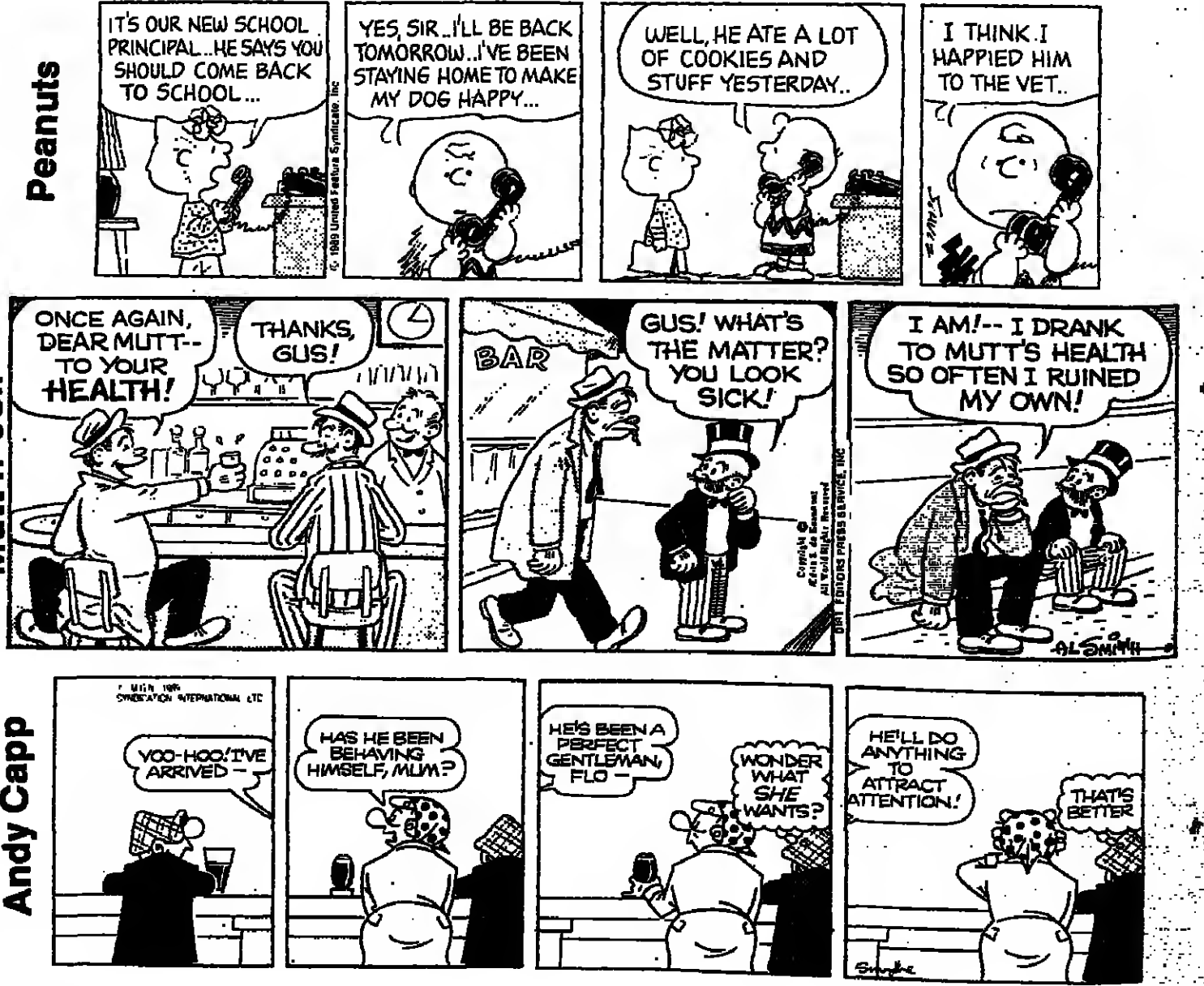
The Soviet population was larger at mid-year, 296.4 million compared with 246 million for the United States. Both populations

were growing at the same rate: 0.9 per cent a year.

For 1987, U.S. loans and grants to the Third World were given as \$9.3 billion and Soviet economic aid as \$2.2 billion, rising to \$7.3 billion in 1988. No comparable 1988 figure was given for the United States.

The CIA reported some East European countries as turning in a better earnings record than the Soviets. For the first time in 1988, Czechoslovakia joined 29 other countries where the average citizen earns the equivalent of more than \$10,000 annually, the only country to join that group last year. The figure for Czechoslovakia was \$10,140.

East Germany was already a member, with average of \$12,480 last year.



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's double moon square of Uranus and Venus will inhibit the plans you want to make for greater progress and diversification. This isn't an evening for social activity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You will be preoccupied with many business activities. Consider with your household the cost of the trip you plan.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your own ideas will be best how to handle your finances. Be ready to let go of an understanding friend that is going away.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your best opportunities will now come from a distance. Your attachment will expect you to do many of the chores.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Quiet pleasure at home will be greatly appreciated. Make sure you go out to eat on any trip with friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A big fight could result if you insult a family member. Be sure you accept a bigwig's suggestion in business.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Unite with family and friends for entertaining now. Look to the executive of a big company for any business advice.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A triple moon square keeps today from being a day to sort out routine matters that need to be scheduled on a more productive and efficient scale of operation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An expert businessman will be helpful to you. You can now arrange practical matters with your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get involved with a confused friend in a financial scheme. Analyze all phase of your business affairs now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get confidential whatever family secret you know of. A woman will have the best ideas for more business success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Accept an invitation to a party which is quite a social event. Be patient at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It will be necessary that you keep poised with your attachment. See as much as possible of woman friends at this time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Check all facts and figures given to you by business partners. Too much restlessness at home can upset your own plan.

22) Involve a friend who is an expert in your business area. You had better do the thing your family desires or have trouble.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) At last you will be able to do what you like to do at home. Now is the time to be more romantic with your loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to put more colour and efficiency in your home. You can have a very happy time with a group of friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't argue with your family about outside projects. Have a good time but don't waste energy on pleasure.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A friend who is experienced will aid you in business. Practical matters should attract your attention at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Visit as many relatives and neighbours as possible at short distance away. Use caution getting involved in an old scheme.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be able to easily get points across to others and then come to a fine agreement without a lot of discussion or haggling. This child keeps all promises made and has a higher sense of ethics which are admired by all friends and associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't allow a greedy person to take advantage of you at a social function. Both old and new pleasure will delight your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Invite influential people to bring friends into your home. It is now necessary that you continue with business now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't put a new business project in effect that will take long to mature.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A great day to take your social contacts out on the town. Take members of your household out for congenial recreation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Expressing your love to your attachment will bring fine results. A spark of discord at home could make conditions tense.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Entertaining any and all persons will bring joy at home. Avoid being too emotional with your attachment.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be a fascinating individual with much energy and solid ideas for health programmes that are non-medical.

Wilander wins Stockholm Open

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Mats Wilander won his first tennis match in more than two months Tuesday, outlasting Udo Riglewski in the second round of the Stockholm Open.

Wilander, looking sharp and playing with confidence, rallied to beat the hard-hitting West German 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 on the globe arena's fast artificial court.

"I think I played pretty good in the second and third sets when I needed to," said Wilander, who won the Australian, French and U.S. opens last year but has slipped to number 14 in the world rankings by the Association of Tennis Professionals.

"I was a little bit lucky toward the end, especially with a few forehand shots," he added.

Wilander briefly was ranked number 1 in the world after beating Ivan Lendl in five sets at the U.S. Open last year, but had a disappointing U.S. Open this year and then was beaten by American Derrick Rostagno in the first round at Los Angeles in mid-September.

The Swede then took a long layoff and returned to the tour last week at the Paris Open, where he lost his opening match to Alberto Mancini of Argentina.

Wilander, however, is seeded eighth in Stockholm and received a bye in the first-round here.

Armed with his old mid-size racket after experimenting with an oversized model since last spring, he served and volleyed well in the last two sets in his match with Riglewski.

"It doesn't matter whom you beat. It's just nice to win," Wilander said afterward.

Three Americans also advanced to the third round of the \$1,025,000 tournament. They were fourth seed Andre Agassi, fifth seed Aaron Krickstein and 11th seed Jim Courier.

Agassi, playing in Sweden for the first time, downed qualifier Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-3 in the final centre court match of the day, finishing just before midnight.

Krickstein, who has made a great comeback this year and now is ranked eighth in the world, beat Swedish qualifier Ronnie Bahman 6-0, 6-7, 6-3.

Courier, a semifinalist here last year, defeated fellow American Todd Witsken 7-6, 6-2.

But Mancini, seeded sixth, couldn't handle the fast surface and fell 6-3, 6-2 to Peter Lundgren of Sweden in another second-round match.

Lundgren was a finalist against Boris Becker last year, when the tournament was played at the Royal Tennis Hall.

Mancini, who is a clay court expert and earned his first two



Mats Wilander

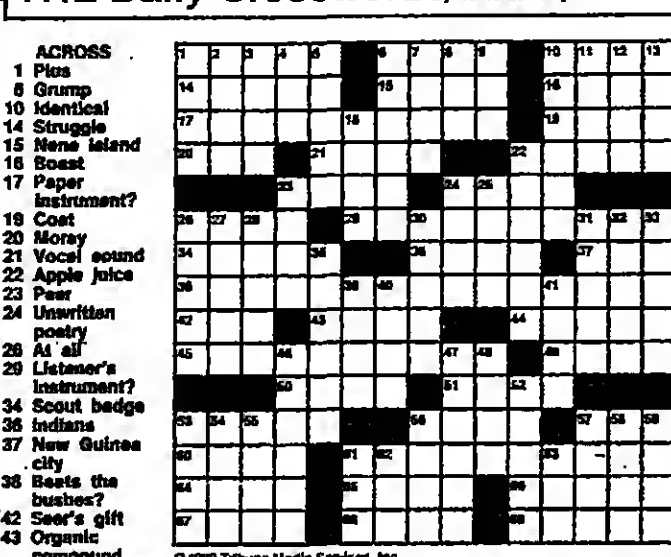
major titles on the slow surface this year at Monte Carlo and in the Italian Open, had never played Lundgren before.

Becker, this year's Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, will play American Jim Pugh in the

second round Wednesday while world number 1 Lendl takes on Mikael Pernfors of Sweden.

Wilander next plays Thomas Muster of Austria, a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden.

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Santory



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Yesterday's Puzzle Saved:

1. Type of TV 10. Division 11. Dry 12. Fashion 13. Bug 14. Ocean floor 15. Covering 16. Kneeling 17. Relation? 18. Serious 19. Words by Caesar 20. White House 21. Shiver 22. Gear support 23. Left-hand 24. Actor Buddy 25. Hit the roof 26. Criminal coin 27. Full places 28. Picture holder 29. Irritable 30. Nasty fly 31. Single 32. Elbow action 33. Swelling 34. Look 35. Poured 36. Local 37. Evade 38. Snacking 39. Hem and 40. Madrid cheer 41. Vet 42. Lane of "The Daily Planet" 43. Ivy college 44. Garden spot 45. Mad and 46. Madrid cheer 47. Vet

Maradona's wedding draws crowds, criticism

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Soccer star Diego Maradona married his longtime sweetheart and the mother of his two daughters Tuesday in a lavish wedding that drew some criticism.

Newspapers called the million-dollar event the wedding of the decade. But some in the crowd of hundreds of curiosity-seekers and reporters outside most holy

Sacramento Basilica in downtown Buenos Aires said Maradona could have put his money to better use.

"There are much more important things in the world, especially here in Argentina. Maradona knows this. He was born poor. It's too much. He could donate some of the money to charity," said Nestor Morbiducci, a 30-year-old law student.

"It is a lot of money when so many people are hungry," 75-year-old retiree Daniel Barragon said as people nearby nodded agreement. "But he's a very good boy from a humble background. Let him have fun."

Maradona flew in from Italy Monday with more than 200 guests — including teammates from Napoli, his Italian club which is currently leading the Italian League — on a chartered Boeing 747 that reportedly cost him \$500,000.

A Persian rug, gold-framed pictures, a ming dynasty jar and other gifts worth thousands of dollars were held at customs until tariffs were paid.

After pulling up to the civil registry Tuesday in a gleaming black Mercedes Limousine, Maradona punched in the face of a

photographer who came too close. Then, surrounded by bodyguards, he entered with bride Claudia and daughters Dalmira Nerea and Gianinna Dinorah.

After the church ceremony, he hosted a lavish reception for 1,250 at a sports stadium.

In a country that supplies bread and beef to the world, but underwent food riots last April, Maradona ordered a feast for his guests, many of whom he put up at Buenos Aires' best hotels.

Appetizers included smoked salmon, red and black caviar, stuffed eggs, truffles and shrimp. The main course: Lobster, king crab and more smoked salmon, and presumably the 30 cases of French champagne and 38 cases of Italian wine that were impounded by customs Monday until duties were paid.

The wedding cake of cream and meringue was 2.6 metres high

Yugoslavia defeats U.S., finishes 2nd

LUCERNE, Switzerland (AP) — Yugoslavia's national chess team defeated the United States 3-1 to win the silver medals in the final round of the chess world team championship Tuesday.

The Soviet team, which had already secured first place, defeated Cuba 3-1 to finish with 27.5 points out of a possible 36.

Yugoslavia had a total of 22.5 points. The British team placed third with 21.5 points after a 2-2 draw with China Tuesday.

Hungary drew 2-2 with Netherlands to end in fourth place with 18.5 points, and Switzerland beat Africa 2.5-1.5 to finish in a tie for fifth with the United States.

The championship, held in a casino overlooking Lake Lucerne, featured nine of the leading chess playing nations, plus a team representing Africa. Each win was worth one full point, and a draw was worth a half point.

The first Yugoslav victory Tuesday came when grandmaster Predrag Nikolic ground out a win in 61 moves against John Federowicz.

Branko Damjanovic secured the silver medals for his team when he defeated Chicago grandmaster Dmitri Gurevich in a closely contested endgame that stretched over eight hours.

Yugoslavia's leading player, grandmaster Ljubomir

Ljubojevic, played a rapid 17-move draw with the black pieces against American grandmaster Yasser Seirawan.

In the China-England clash, grandmaster Jonathan Speelman gave England an early lead when he overwhelmed Xu Jun in only 24 moves.

England appeared headed for its second victory when Nigel Short, who holds a joint ranking of third in the world, built up a strong initiative against Ye Jiangchun.

But Ye suddenly unleashed a dangerous pawn thrust that turned the tables on his 24-year-old opponent.

Short eventually lost his queen and resigned on the 47th move. Murray Chandler defeated Wang Zhi and put England ahead, but the Chinese equalized when Ye Rongguang won against grandmaster John Nunn.

The Yugoslav triumph followed a shocking incident early in the match when Yugoslav grandmaster Bozidar Ivanovic, two pawns ahead in an endgame, suddenly offered a draw to American grandmaster Larry Christiansen.

Observers suggested Ivanovic might have snapped due to the pressure of the situation.

"Of course he should have played it out, if only for his team, but maybe he just misjudged the position," said Christiansen.



Diego Maradona

and weighed 150 kilos. Entertainment was provided by an 80-piece tango orchestra.

News reports said Claudia's tiara was of diamonds and pearls and her gown, by designer Elsa

Serrano, took eight women working six 11-hour days to make.

Argentines have avidly followed Maradona's career from junior games to stardom in the 1986 World Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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MASTER OF THE MASTER POINTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 10 4

♥ K 9 8 6 3

♦ K 9 3

♣ 10 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 3

♥ A Q J 7 4

♦ A Q

♣ A Q 8

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

The late Barry Crane could well lay claim to the title "The World's Greatest Duplicate Pairs Player."

Perhaps his main rival as a pairs specialist would be London's Martin Hoffman. This hand will illustrate why he fared so well in matchpoint events.

When North showed a five-card heart suit in response to his forcing two-club bid, Crane decided that it was more important, in a pair tour-

namment, to describe his balanced 23-24 points than to support partner with his five excellent hearts. North made the value jump to six no

trump. Six hearts would have been a simple contract. Declarer would discard a spade on the king of diamonds, ruff a spade and take the club finesse for an overtrick. In six no

trump, Crane won the opening diamond lead in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and crossed to dummy with the king of hearts. The ten of clubs was covered by the jack and the finesse of the queen won. After unblocking the ace of diamonds, declarer ran off three more rounds of hearts, ending in dummy, and cashed the king of diamonds.

On these tricks East had to find five discards. He nonchalantly discarded two clubs and two spades, then another club. Meanwhile, West carefully held on to a club and three spades. Crane decided East did not look like a man with the queen of spades, so he discarded the jack from hand, crossed to the king of spades, took the ace of clubs and then confidently finessed the ten of spades. When that held, declarer had all 13 trick and an absolute top.

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ADVERT

The Department of Antiquities and Friends of Archaeology announce a lecture by Professor Burrani, Peshawar University on:

"Origins of the Indus Valley Civilization and Links with the Middle East."

at ACOR at 7:00 p.m. on Thurs. November 9th.
ALL WELCOME

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE SECOND TIME ANNOUNCEMENT EXPANSION OF ZARQA SEWAGE PUMPING STATION INVITATION FOR TENDER NO. 70/89/CENTRAL

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the European Investment Bank towards the cost of the Zarqa Wastewater project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Invitation to Tender is issued.

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Government Tenders Directorate invites experienced firms of Contractors from member states of the European Communities, Switzerland, Austria, Japan or the United States of America and Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who have been qualified as First Class Electrical and Mechanical Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Jordan, to submit bids for the project for the Expansion of the Zarqa Pumping Station. Foreign contractors are strongly encouraged to associate with such local contractors.

All commodities imported for this project shall have their source and origin in Member States of the European Communities or in Switzerland, Austria, Japan or the United States of America.

The Contract for the expansion of the existing Zarqa Sewage Pumping Station consists of the supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance for two years of the following: two main sewage pumping units each with a capacity of 872 cubic meters per hour, additional generating capacity; additional piping and electrical and control equipment; and the supply of spare parts for the new and existing equipment.

On or before November 28th, 1989 each contractor shall submit in person or by mail to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing qualifying information about the firm or joint venture showing their overall experience and, specifically, their ability to supply, install, test and commission main sewage pumping units, generators, and accessories of the size and type required for this project. The information will be evaluated and the contractor will be informed by December 9th, 1989 whether or not to submit a bid.

The tenders are due not later than 1330, Jordan local time, on Saturday January 13th, 1990 at the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Tenders Documents may be examined and purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the Tenders Division of the Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Telex 22439 WAJ JO, Fax 679143, and the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 300.

Eng. Saleh Oudah
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Director/Government Tenders Directorate

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

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Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

ST. ELMO'S FIRE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOUR** Tel: 675571

ARTHUR 2 ON THE ROCKS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

TWINS

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00

Blacks score historic gain in U.S. elections

NEW YORK (R) — Blacks scored historic victories in U.S. elections by capturing the mayoralties of New York and Seattle and appearing to win their first elected state governorship.

Douglas Wilder, a grandson of slaves, claimed victory in the race for the governorship of Virginia but the margin was razor-thin and could change in a recount.

In New York, the nation's largest city, there was no such doubt. Democrat David Dinkins, a barber's son who once shined shoes and waited on tables to get through college, beat Republican Rudolph Giuliani by 51 to 48 per cent of the vote.

With 99 per cent of the vote counted in Virginia, a one-time stronghold of segregationism, Democrat Wilder held a three-tenths of a percentage point lead over Republican J. Marshall Coleman, who said "the race is not over."

Vote counting was stopped overnight with Wilder leading by 7,500 votes out of 1.7 million cast. Only one precinct remained to be counted Wednesday.

Wilder claimed victory but the Republicans said they would demand a recount.

"Personally it means a great deal to me that the people of Virginia cast their ballots on the basis of merit alone," Wilder said.

If Wilder wins he will become the nation's first elected black governor. The only previous black governor was an appointee in Louisiana who lasted only 43 days in office just after the 1861-

65 civil war.

In New York, Dinkins got a third of the white vote and overwhelming support from black and Hispanic voters.

He promised in a victory speech that he was going to be mayor of all New Yorkers and declared, "this year the voters rejected the voices of fear and responded with hope. Nov. 7, 1989 is a date that will live in history. We passed another milestone on freedom's road."

Introducing his father, who is now in his late 80s, Dinkins said: "My father remembers when he was young talking to neighbours who themselves remembered the days of slavery."

"Tonight we forced a new link in that chain of memories," Giuliani did better than any Republican had in a New York city mayoral election in 20 years, capturing 60 per cent of the city's strongly Democratic Jewish vote.

Giuliani had repeatedly sought his supporters down to praise Dinkins and then added, "every day is a beginning. I'm still here... I know your faith in me is not going to fade and I assure you, I am not going to fade away."

In Seattle, Washington State, Norman Rice became the city's first black mayor, beating a white challenger in a city where less than 10 per cent of the population

is black.

While the nation's black minority rejoiced as they demolished more barriers on the road to racial equality, it was a bad night for President George Bush and his Republican Party, which also lost the race for the governorship of New Jersey.

Bush and his wife Barbara campaigned for Giuliani, hoping he would establish a Republican beachhead in New York.

Bush also campaigned heavily for Republican James Courter in New Jersey. He lost to Democrat James Florio by 62 to 38 per cent after a bitter campaign in which abortion was a major issue as it was in Virginia.

Mnly Yard, president of the National Organisation for Women, said the election results were a strong message to Bush that voters had rejected his anti-abortion stance.

She said the lesson for next year's congressional elections was that opponents of abortion rights, "will run for office at their political peril."

Democratic National Chairman Ron Brown hailed the evening's results, saying his party's fortunes were now on the rise.

But Republican national chairman Lee Atwater said, "you can't put a lot of stock in an off-year election."

In Miami, Xavier Suarez, the first Cuban-born mayor of the heavily Hispanic city, won a third consecutive term with a landslide victory over another Cuban-American candidate.

U.N. probes report fraud in Namibian elections

WINDHOEK (R) — U.N. officials said Wednesday they were investigating reports that people from neighbouring Angola had been forced across the border to vote in Namibian elections ahead of independence from South Africa.

The charges were levelled Tuesday, the first day of the five-day elections, by a liberal legal organisation based in the Namibian capital Windhoek.

The organisation, the Legal Assistance Centre, accused the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), one of the main parties fighting the elections, of forcing Angolans, sometimes at gunpoint, across the border to vote for the party.

Guerrillas of the pro-Western UNITA rebel movement in Angola and former members of a feared Namibian counter-insurgency unit called Koevoet (Crowbar) were also involved, the charges said.

"DTA transport is said to have been used to take Angolan civilians to tribal officers in Namibia where they have been told how to vote," the centre added.

A spokesman for a United Nations group overseeing the elections declined to comment on the allegations, which are denied by the centrist DTA, but said they were being investigated.

More than 700,000 Namibians in this arid territory on southern Africa's Atlantic coast can vote in the elections, a key step towards ending 74 years of South African rule.

The expected victors when results are announced next week are the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which fought a 23-year long guerrilla war against South African rule.

After an enthusiastic and largely peaceful start to the voting, the pace slackened Wednesday, with queues shorter than when polls opened.

Among the eligible voters are about 10,000 South Africans, many of whom are flying or driving to Namibia to cast their ballots.

Witnesses said unruly scenes developed at Windhoek Airport Tuesday evening when arriving white South Africans shouted abuse at non-whites.

Superpowers move on chemical pact

QUEENSTOWN, Maryland (AP) — The United States and Soviet Union will begin exchanging information about their chemical-weapon arsenals next month and likely will conduct trial inspections in May, a U.S. official has said.

The exchange of data and inspections are initial steps toward a treaty to sharply reduce and possibly eliminate the weapons.

President George Bush and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze called for production bans in recent speeches to the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. official, attending an arms control seminar at Wye Plantation on the eastern shore of Maryland, estimated U.S. stockpiles at about 30,000 tonnes.

The official who spoke to reporters under rules that barred identifying him, said the Soviet's claim of possessing 50,000 tonnes of poison gas was widely under-

stated.

He said their arsenal could be five or six times as big.

The superpowers, apparently working without major disagreements, hope they can reach an accord that will prompt 40 nations meeting in Geneva to adopt a worldwide ban.

Another 27 countries are attending the Geneva talks as observers. Those countries include Iran, Syria, Libya and several other countries.

The U.S. official estimated 20 to 25 nations have mastered the technology to produce chemical weapons and that about half actually possess them.

Only the United States and the Soviet Union have acknowledged chemical weapons stockpiles.

The U.S. official said the Soviets have proposed exchanging information on Dec. 20 in Washington and Moscow, while the United States suggested Dec.

14 in Geneva.

The Soviets, meanwhile, proposed a single inspection in May of either a production or storage facility. The United States suggested an inspection of both types of facilities, the U.S. official said.

The inspections, which the Soviets call "visitations," would be conducted by monitors from the other country.

On another point, the Soviets have proposed drawing up a list of 60 countries whose approval of a treaty would trigger the complete elimination of all U.S. and Soviet chemical weapons, the official said.

The United States, seeking a more air-tight arrangement, wants all countries in Geneva to approve a ban. Until they do, Bush said in his U.N. speech, the United States would retain 2 per cent of its chemical weapons, all of them the modern binary type still in production.

Pakistan seeks no-nuke accord in South Asia, Bhutto says

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto opened a seven-nation South Asia foreign ministers' meeting Wednesday with a new call to negotiate a regional nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

"We are prepared for negotiations to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons in our region on a non-discriminatory basis," Ms. Bhutto told ministers from India and six other nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Pakistan is widely reported to have developed nuclear weapons capability despite denials by Ms. Bhutto's government, and a military-led government before it.

India exploded what it called a "peaceful nuclear device" in 1974.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

has refused to discuss the issue of non-proliferation with Pakistan because he claims that the military, and not Ms. Bhutto's civilian government, is in charge of the programme.

Ms. Bhutto denied that claim at a joint news conference with Gandhi last July in Islamabad.

Pakistan, which has fought three unsuccessful wars with neighbouring India, previously has offered to enter into several bilateral non-nuclear agreements.

India has rejected them, analysts contend, mainly because it wants to keep its nuclear weapons option open in response to China, its rival northern neighbour. China has been a nuclear power since 1964.

Ms. Bhutto's latest proposal came at the start of a two-day meeting that is setting the stage

for a December summit of South Asian leaders, probably in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Other SAARC members are Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

The foreign ministers were originally to meet in July, but that session was cancelled after Sri Lanka said it would boycott to protest India's refusal to withdraw more than 50,000 of its soldiers from the island nation. The two countries have since reached an agreement on the troop withdrawal.

Predominantly-Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan have tried to thaw traditionally cold relations since Ms. Bhutto's government came to power following elections last November.

Her right-wing political opponents have accused her of selling out Pakistan's interests

Cambodian offensive 'stalled'

KOMPONG CHHNANG, Cambodia (R) — Guerrilla forces have failed to follow up their border successes with strikes deep in the Cambodian interior and are now on the defensive, government officials here said.

About 300 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, attempting to move in boats closer to major population areas, were routed on Oct. 31 and forced to flee to their jungle hideouts, Tauch Yoeun, a senior

official of the Kompong Chhnang Provincial Committee, said this week.

He said the guerrilla flotilla was spotted at the tributary of the Tonle Sap Lake, near the border between Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom, and was attacked with artillery fire from land-based batteries.

They were able to escape to their jungle hideouts in Kompong Thom and casualties were not

known.

Kompong Chhnang, 90 kilometres north of Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, sits astride Highway 5 leading to the western city of Battambang, a key guerrilla target.

Yoeun said it appeared the guerrillas wanted to establish a springboard from which to launch ground or rocket attacks against major cities, including Phnom Penh.

U.N. force set up for C. America

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After a month of delay in which 2,000 contras slipped into Nicaragua, the U.N. Security Council is taking the unprecedented step of sending peacekeepers to Central America to shut off rebel border crossings.

Peacekeeping forces are never sent into a combat zone, so Tuesday's unanimous council action will put pressure on Nicaragua to renew its truce with the U.S.-supported contras, which President Daniel Ortega lifted last week.

Sandinista officials are to meet contra leaders, with Honduran officials sitting in as observers. Thursday and Friday for talks mediated by a joint commission of the U.N. and Organisation of

American States (OAS).

The contras are insisting on reinstatement of the 19-month ceasefire. On Tuesday evening, Nicaraguan Ambassador Alejandro Serrano Caldera called the ceasefire a one-sided truce and said hundreds of Nicaraguans died in contra attacks while it was in effect.

"Possibly if the (peacekeeping) force had been created before this period, we would not have had to lament the loss and death in Nicaragua, but in any case, the important thing is that it has been created," Serrano Caldera said.

Ortega refused to renew the truce last week, saying infiltrating contras were mounting raids to disrupt the Nicaraguan national election set for Feb. 25. Contra

leaders say they support the election and deny that they have launched attacks.

The U.S. State Department says about 2,000 contras infiltrated Nicaragua in recent weeks, and that a total of about 4,000 are now in Nicaragua, while 10,000 remain at their bases in Honduras.

The 625-strong U.N. border patrol force will attempt to cut off contra infiltration into Nicaragua and stop weapons shipments sent from Nicaragua or Cuba to Salvadoran rebels, an accusation made by the U.S. State Department.

U.S. acceptance of the force marks a turnaround by Washington.

Bush asks for broader American powers abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration of President George Bush urged the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday to give American law enforcement officials broader power to conduct searches in foreign countries.

The justices were told in a case involving a notorious Mexican drug-smuggling operation that the U.S. constitution gives agents more leeway when they investigate away from the United States.

A ruling in the case is expected by July.

Lawrence S. Robbins, representing the administration, said the fourth amendment to the constitution that provides U.S. citizens with safeguards against unreasonable searches were not designed "to protect rights in every quarter of the globe."

He described as "Zaniness" any constitutional interpretation that would require U.S. officials to get a warrant from a U.S.

judge before searching a home in another country.

But Michael Pancer, representing an alleged high-ranking drug dealer, said the high court should not authorise "a raiding party" on foreign soil.

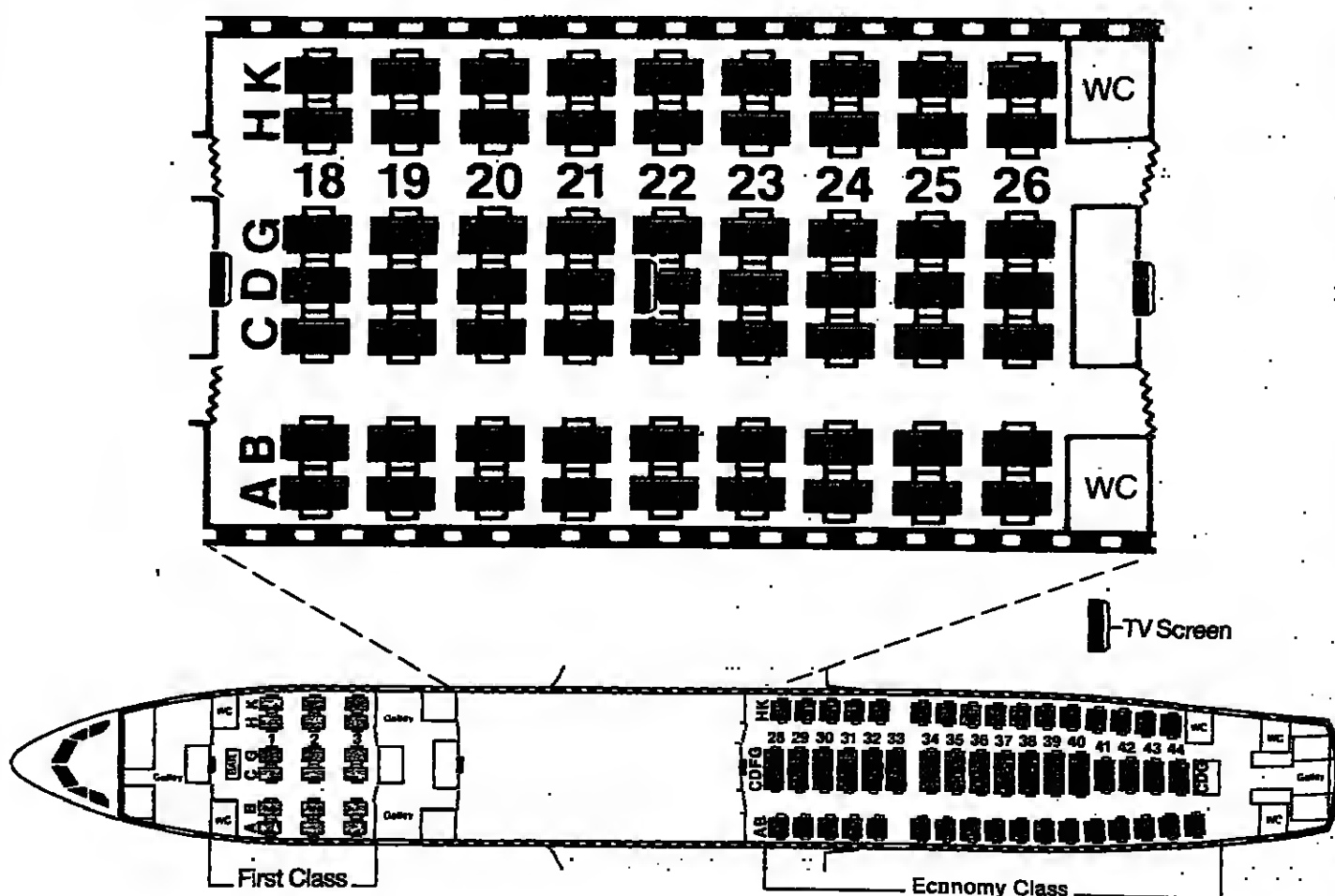
"If a warrant is required, (U.S. agents) must either get one or they must not search," he said.

Justice Antonin Scalia, one of the nine members of the high court, questioned that any U.S. judge would have authority to

issue a warrant to search a foreign residence.

U.S. agents without a warrant in 1988 searched the home of Rene Verduzco Urquidez in Mexico, Mexico. Verduzco was convicted in the United States last year of taking part in the 1985 kidnapping, torture and murder of Enrique Camarena, an agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration or DEA, and his pilot.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Kohl to visit Poland Thursday

WARSAW (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will try to forge a post-war reconciliation with Poland during a six-day visit starting Thursday but his efforts have been marred by disputes over former German territories. Kohl, the first chancellor to visit Poland since Helmut Schmidt in 1977, will offer financial aid for Poland's shattered economy in exchange for concessions over what Bonn says is an ethnic German minority in territories once ruled by Germany. He will meet Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, President Wojciech Jaruzelski and other Communist officials in his first trek to Eastern Europe since Solidarity ended Communist rule in September.

58 people killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Eleven Tamil guerrillas killed in a gunbattle inside a wildlife park were among 58 people slain in 24 hours of violence in Sri Lanka to Wednesday morning, military sources said. Fighting broke in Wilpattu National Park, 175 kilometres north west of Colombo, when nine soldiers and nine petrel surprised 35 Tamil rebels ransacking a bungalow Tuesday. Eleven rebels and a soldier were killed in the shootout. The eight remaining soldiers hid in the jungle after running short of ammunition and were picked up Wednesday by an air force helicopter, the sources said. They said the rebels were suspected of belonging to the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group, which is believed by authorities to run a camp in the park.

Kitty Dukakis hospitalised

BOSTON (AP) — Kitty Dukakis, wife of Governor Michael S. Dukakis, was in a hospital intensive care unit Tuesday as doctors tried to diagnose her illness. The governor's spokeswoman said initial tests were inconclusive, but indicated the ailment was neither drug-nor alcohol-related. "Mrs. Dukakis is tired of tests, but she's feeling OK. She's up, she's alert," said the spokeswoman, Mindy Lubber. Mrs. Dukakis was taken by ambulance Monday night to Brigham and women's hospital after several days of flu-like symptoms, Ms. Lubber said. "I don't know if it's flu-related. I know she was feeling groggy," Ms. Lubber said. "She's had the flu. She's been feeling tired. Last night she was feeling particularly lethargic."

Sweden convicts radio broadcaster

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish court Monday condemned the head of an Islamic radio station for stirring up hatred against Jewish people, court officials said. The court, which will announce its sentence next week, found Ahmad Rami guilty of 21

counts of broadcasting anti-semitic statements on Radio Islam, a local station in the Stockholm area. Rami, who denied the charges, faces up to two years in jail and his radio station may be closed down. He said he would appeal.

Tiger attacks teenage trainer

TOKYO (AP) — An 80-kilogramme Bengal tiger bit and broke the neck of the teenage girl who was its trainer as 170 junior high school students looked on, police said. The tiger bit into the shoulder of Tomiko Omi, 17, when she unchained the animal to begin a show in the animal's 10-square-metre cage at the Shiratori Zoo in Kagawa, south western Japan, a police official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the tiger pulled away from Miss Omi when another nearby trainer shouted "stop" and lashed the animal with a whip. Omi, who had served as a trainer for 21 months, was taken to a hospital, where she was diagnosed as suffering from a broken neck and shoulder injuries.

South Korea bans Soviet reception

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea banned as political a reception by the Soviet trade office in Seoul in honour of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, government officials said Tuesday. South Korea and the Soviet Union have no diplomatic relations but opened trade offices early this year to promote economic exchanges. Officials at the Foreign Ministry and the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. said the Soviet trade office, on orders from the South Korean government, cancelled its plan to hold the reception at the plush Hilton Hotel in downtown Seoul on Tuesday.

W. German admiral can't go to Moscow

BONN (R) — A West German admiral has been barred from going to Moscow because of old-style regulations. Admiral Elmar Schmieding wanted to accept an invitation to address the Lenin Academy on "new thinking and military policy" but was blocked by the Defence Ministry because he knew too many secrets. A federal administration court in Munich rejected his attempts to overturn the ban. The ministry said he was a "secrets carrier" who "in principle cannot be allowed to travel to certain countries."

Extradited Colombian jailed

DETROIT (R) — A U.S. judge has sentenced a Colombian cocaine trafficker to a 15-year prison term, the first time a Colombian extradited to the United States has been jailed since a drug crackdown began in the smuggler's homeland in August. Five other reputed traffickers have been extradited to the United States since Colombia began its war on drugs on Aug. 18 and all are awaiting trial.